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Editorial.

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS.

Farmers in Council.

The following invitation received by a hundred and fifty, or more of the farmers and others in Marlboro' and vicinity, will explain the occasion of my trip to this place.

Farmers' Circle.

DEAR SIR,—You are cordially invited to meet A. W. Cheever, Agricultural Editor of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, at "The Elms," on Monday evening Nov. 28, 1881, at 7 o'clock. An informal, practical address on [illegible] may be expected. Subject—"How farmers can help each other." The presence of ladies is especially solicited.

Yours respectfully,

O. A. HILLMAN.

The appointed hour found the parlors at "The Elms" filled by a large gathering of the farmers of the town with their families, in all to the number of seventy-five or more.

Mr. Hillman was formerly engaged in manufacturing, but some years since gave up his city business, and is now applying himself to the improvement and cultivation of one of the best farms in the vicinity, and brings to the work that love, skill, energy and business ability, the lack of which too often accounts for the discouragement and want of success, among those whose farming experience is the result of fortune or accident, rather than of choice. In opening the meeting, he said that a few days previously he had learned that he was to receive a call from Mr. Cheever, and had congratulated himself at the anticipation of a pleasant evening's chat upon subjects of mutual interest, but the thought came to him that the evening might be just as pleasantly and perhaps more profitably spent, if the number were increased from two to a hundred or more. He had felt too that the interest in Agricultural pursuits among the people of Marlboro' might be increased somewhat by the discussion, in a familiar way, of the subject that had been chosen as the theme for the evening. Marlboro' has an organized association of farmers and mechanics, which has done some good work, but he thought more good would come from it if a little more effort could be put forth, particularly by the farmers themselves. An annual exhibition of farm crops with a street parade and brass band, should not be the sole object of such an association. He had seen occasional reports in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, of some of the good work done by the Franklin Farmers' Club, of which Mr. Cheever is a member, and he hoped and expected that his experience with that or other clubs would be of interest to the farmers of Marlboro', who had met on this occasion.

Mr. Cheever on being introduced said that the meeting of so large a number gathered for the discussion of the question "How can farmers help each other?" was full of promise. There are a great many people who are always ready and willing to be helped by others, but not all have yet learned that those who strive most to help others are really themselves most helped. This is particularly true of the work done in Farmers' Clubs. Those who are most willing to accept the burdens necessarily connected with such an organization, are the ones above all others, who are most benefited. The Franklin Club had been fortunate in having many members who never shun or shirk any responsibility that is placed upon them. The meetings are all held at the residences of its members, and the host is always expected to lead in the discussion of the subject assigned, and it is very rare that such leader does not put forth his best efforts, in the treatment of his subject; and as the subjects and places of meeting are published in advance for the whole winter, each member is given ample time for the study and preparation of his work. He was not sorry to learn that the Marlboro' Association included members from other callings. Farmers and mechanics should become acquainted with each other, and their interests should, as far as practicable, be one interest. He was rather opposed to the division of society into classes defined by occupations. One of the pleasant results of the work of the Franklin Club, has been the bringing together into closer acquaintanceship, the farmers, merchants, mechanics, manufacturers and professional men. One of the most useful and interesting lectures ever delivered before the Club, was given by one who illustrated what he had to say about the "Horse's Foot" by a large collection of sound and diseased feet, and shoes of various patterns intended for special cases, which he had laid by during his long experience as a village blacksmith.

The Club has done a great deal in the way of overcoming on the part of individuals that diffidence which so often prevents men who are capable of thinking clearly, from expressing their thoughts before an audience, be that audience never so small. We have now among our most useful members, men and women, who previous to the organization of the Club suffered intensely from a want of confidence to act in an organized meeting, a want that is far too general among farmers as a class. The speaker was opposed to exclusive organizations of farmers, but yet if men of other callings see fit to organize for mutual protection, it may become necessary for farmers to follow their example. Farmers should certainly make themselves felt in all public matters of general interest. There is a great deal of useful work that might be done by Farmers' Clubs and perhaps will be done in no other way. There should be a Club in every town or rural district in the State, and such clubs should be organized by, and be in close communication with the secretary of the Board of Agriculture, for purposes of collecting and disseminating facts relating to the acreage condition of growing crops, and the gross amount when harvested.

The Clubs should also carry on experiments, for the purpose of obtaining definite knowledge upon various farm practices, all experiments to be reported and recorded in the secretary's book. Mr. Hillman, on again taking the floor, gave a short report of the present condition of the Marlboro' Club, and urged the importance of doing something more than to get up an annual show. Except at the exhibition season, the Club is too dormant, and does very little work that is of real value to the farming interest. Mr. L. L. Tarbell, the present president of the Association, was the next speaker, and although admitting that the Club had been a failure the past year, he was not quite ready to believe it had been killed by its president. The generally unfavorable season for nearly all farm crops, the gloom which was spread over the whole country by the assassination and death of President Garfield, and last the admitting by the selectmen of the town, a circus on the same day of the fair, were each and all sufficient to explain the cause of the decline of the Club. He hoped, however, that the old interest would be revived the coming year. Mr. Hillman next stated that Marlboro' was fortunate in being able to count among her farmers, several graduates from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and as he saw some of them present he thought they should be heard from on the subject under consideration.

Mr. Arthur A. Brigham responded to the call, saying that he thought the farmers' sons who as mere school boys left their fathers' farm for a four years' course of training in the *theory* of agriculture, sometimes found themselves somewhat at a disadvantage on returning to the scenes of their boyhood. Hethought the fathers and the old farmers through the towns generally, had expected too much of the returned graduates, and expected that much too soon. As for himself, he had learned that the theory of agriculture, as taught at the college, and its practice, as carried on upon the farm, often require a good deal of adjustment. In some respects he had come home full of assurance. He had during the past winter figured out on paper a large crop of potatoes from certain methods of practice. He had the past summer endeavored to produce two hundred bushels of potatoes from an acre, and did not get ten bushels of satisfactory quality, and the sorry thought in the matter was that he had not been able to find out the exact cause of his failure. He believed, however, in Farmers' Clubs, and should be willing to do his part in making the Marlboro' Club successful, but was not quite sure what he could do in that direction. He certainly did not feel that his course in college had made him competent to get up and teach the older farmers, who had had the benefit of a lifelong experience.

Mr. Cheever, in reply, said that, if Mr. Brigham were a member of the Franklin Farmers' Club, he would probably be assigned the subject of "potatoes" for experiment work, during the coming summer, and that by next autumn or winter, he would be prepared to make such a report as would show that at least one point in potato growing had been established. Mr. S. F. Backlin asked for the reading of the programme and list of subjects of the Franklin Club. Following the reading, a motion to hold another meeting in one week for the discussion of "potatoes," was carried by a unanimous vote, Mr. Hillman tendering the use of his rooms, which were accepted. The meeting then adjourned.

HOME-MADE TOOLS.

In these times of ready-made tools, of most excellent quality and wonderful cheapness, it generally hardly pays to attempt their manufacture at home; still there are some tools made mostly of wood and of simple structure, that any farmer who has a little mechanical "gumption" may easily knock together for himself in the stormy days of winter, and especially such tools as are not to be found ready made at the stores, but nevertheless very useful ones, which deserve a short notice.

The Snow Scraper

is used for cleaning light snow from hot bed shutters, greenhouse roofs, piazza floors, etc. It is a light spruce pole, eight feet long, fastened to a piece of pine board 2 feet by 6 inches, securely braced at either side, like a rake handle. It will do great execution in light snow, but is useless when the snow is deep or heavy. Then we need a

Horse Scraper.

This is a wide board, 6 feet by 16 inches, with two handles, (a pair of old plough handles are just the thing,) fastened on securely by bolts; a couple of rings and staples half way down the board, at suitable distances apart, serve to hitch the trace chains of a ploughing harness; this tool is very useful in scraping snow from hot beds, or for clearing a field of ice for cutting, when it happens to be covered; the under side should be shod with hoop iron or hard wood, if it is to stand hard usage.

The Snow Plough

in common use in our village streets for clearing sidewalks, is a very convenient tool upon the farm for ploughing out paths to the buildings, etc.; it is made of two wide boards, about 6 feet long by 16 inches wide, set upon edge in the form of the letter A, with a brace across nearly in the place where the cross mark of the A comes. To this are attached the plough handles, a strong iron eye-piece, for attaching the whiffletree, is securely bolted to the nose at the upper edge of the boards, and the nose and under edge of the boards should be shod with iron or hard wood. This is an extremely useful tool; a larger plough or road breaker for clearing a track for teams, after a deep snow, is made without handles, of two inch planks, fifteen feet long or more, and needs four horses or more to break through heavy drifts.

Wooden snow shovels are sold so cheaply, and excellently made, that it will hardly pay to make them by hand.

The Clod Crusher

or land drag. This is intended to take the place of a land roller, where this tool cannot be afforded, and there are some who prefer the work of the drag to that of the roller in crushing clods and smoothing the land, but I prefer a roller. The drag, however, has the merit of cheapness; it is made by taking two pieces of oak plank six or eight feet long and 4x6 inches; these are to be split diagonally, at the saw mill, so as to give four pieces 3½ inches thick at one edge and ¼ inch at the other edge. Turning the flat or square side of each piece up and the beveled side down, with the thin edges all in the same direction; secure them in this position by bolting on top two cross pieces of iron or hard wood, and attach suitable ring bolts and chain for hitching on the two horse whiffletrees. Of course the team is attached to that side of the drag where the thin edges of the plank come, so that when drawn over the field the clods are crowded down and ground down by the wedge-like pressure of the four pieces of hard wood; it does rapid work, making a track six or eight feet wide, but will not take the place of the roller for rolling grass land in spring.

The Hand Marker

for marking out hot beds for setting plants. This is a very simple and useful tool and is usually made of pine; the back piece is five feet, eight inches long, so as to just fit inside the planks of a common six foot hot bed; this back is 1½x2 inches, and has firmly nailed to it a number of teeth projecting 2½ inches in length, the distance between the teeth being such as we wish to give the plants; the two markers most used are 3½ inches and 7 inches; the latter gives fifty plants to each sash; the former about 200. Larger markers with teeth 12 to 18 inches, or two feet apart, are sometimes used for marking out drills in the field for setting field crops, such as lettuce, celery and cabbages, but for this purpose the

Wheel Marker

is every way superior. This is a wheel whose circumference is a common multiple of the distances we wish to mark; a good size is nine feet circumference, which will enable us to mark at distances of 9, 12, 18 or 24 inches. The rim of the wheel is of stout hoop iron, without wood, and through it are drilled, at proper places, holes for bolting on the pegs which mark the spots for the plants. The wheel is mounted on a pair of handles, like a wheelbarrow, and a little practice will enable the workman to strike out his rows quite straight with it. W. D. PHILBRICK.

AGRICULTURE AMONG THE ANCIENTS.

Those of us who have witnessed the progress made in agriculture during the past few years, are quite inclined to look upon many of the present methods of conducting agricultural operations as being entirely new. The construction of silos is supposed, by most of us, to be something really new in the history of agriculture, and yet we find that pits dug in the earth are among the earliest forms of storage for farm crops, not only for keeping grain, but probably forage crops also, for as long ago as the days of Augustus, Varro wrote of the danger of going down into silos that had been recently opened, on account of the noxious air collected therein.

Prof. J. M. McBryde of the University of Tennessee, has contributed a paper to the October number of the Journal of the American Agricultural Association, in which he gives many very interesting statements concerning the agriculture of the ancients, statements which incline one to feel a little cautious about boasting of the remarkable discoveries and inventions of these later days. The system of draining wet lands by digging ditches and placing something in the bottom to carry off the water, and then filling in again, is assumed by modern writers to be a new discovery. Col. Waring, in his excellent work on Drainage for Profit and for Health, gives Mr. Joseph Elkington of Warwickshire, England, the credit of being the discoverer of the method of tapping springs by underground drains, and thus carrying off the surplus water, leaving the surface suited to cultivation. Mr. Elkington lived a little over a century ago. Yet Prof. McBryde finds among the writings of Columella, who wrote nearly seventeen centuries before Elkington was born, the following passage concerning the improvement of land by drainage: "If it be wet, let the abundance of moisture be dried up by ditches. Of these, we are acquainted with two kinds, covered and open. In compact and calcareous soils they are left open; but where the ground is more porous, some of them are left open and some covered, so that the free vents of the latter may discharge into the former. It is necessary, however, to make the open ones wider at the top and sloping and contracted at the bottom, like inclined pan-tiles, for those with perpendicular sides are soon damaged by water, and filled up by the falling in of the sides. In addition to this, the covered ones should be sunk three feet deep, and, after being half filled with small stones and coarse gravel, should be made level with the surface by returning the earth thrown out in digging them. If neither stones nor gravel are convenient, then a bundle of twigs twisted together like a rope, should be made of such thickness as to exactly fit and fill the bottom of the ditch. This should be stretched along the bottom, and cypress or pine branches, or any other kind if these can not be obtained, pressed down above it, and the soil thrown back over all, first placing at the head and mouth of the drain two large stones, one against each of the sides, and a single stone across these after the manner of a little bridge, in order to support the sides and keep them from falling in and obstructing the ingress and egress of the water."

How very like the methods now recommended by modern agricultural writers, and practised by the best farmers today. How very familiar, too, do the words of Columella sound complaining of the degeneracy of the age in which he lived, and regretting the "good old times" when "our worthy ancestors esteemed it their glory to take care of their farming interests, and to devote themselves to agriculture."

Later, Palladius writes approvingly of experiment farms, managed somewhat after the style of the experiment stations we are working so hard to introduce into this country at the present time. At these farms, the Egyptians planted many varieties of seeds in little plats where the hardiness, prolificacy and excellence of each was determined by close observation and watchfulness. The list of cultivated plants in those early days would equal the catalogue of almost any of our leading seedsmen. Great pains were taken in the selection and saving of field seeds, particularly wheat, the best ears or heads being culled out at harvest time and threshed separately, and afterwards cleansed in sieves which separated the small and inferior from the large, plump kernels. Seeds were also soaked in chemical solutions before sowing, to ensure germination and give the young plants a more vigorous growth, from which it would appear that the origin of artificial fertilization dates far back of the days of Liebig, Ville or Stockbridge.

Fields were kept fallow for the purpose of resting them and increasing their subsequent productiveness, seventeen centuries ago, the land receiving repeated ploughings to sprout and destroy seeds of foul weeds which increase under ordinary or careless husbandry. Clover, lucern and other leguminous plants were grown and turned in to fertilize the soil, precisely as by the modern system of green manuring. The theory of ploughing clay lands in ridges and leaving sandy lands flat, was also well understood by the ancients. Animal manures of all kinds, the sweepings of streets and court yards, ashes, lime, salt, and chalk, were all valued highly as fertilizers, and were collected and used with care. The breeding of animals for improvement was well understood by the Romans, who also have left books of veterinary practice, which might not be entirely unworthy of modern cattle doctors.

But we had not expected to learn that the reaping machine or "header" was in common use in the year 65 of our era. Pliny, however, writes of a harvesting machine being pushed through the grain by oxen hitched in a reverse position, the van, armed with sharp teeth, going before and taking off the heads which fall into the van behind. Three hundred years later, another writer describes a similar machine mounted on two low wheels, and having two poles in the rear, between which a well trained ox is harnessed for pushing the carriage, with its sharp teeth, around into the fields of grain. The driver followed behind, and with levers or otherwise, was enabled to raise or depress the cutters at will. The machine was driven back and forth across the field, and in a short time performed the work of several hands.

Our college professors and members of boards of agriculture, are not the first to realize the importance of an agricultural education for those who are intending to follow the tilling of the soil as an occupation. With a short quotation from Prof. McBryde's language on this subject, we will close this hasty sketch of ancient agricultural literature:—

The question of agricultural instruction is to us one of paramount importance. Not only this, it is one which in these days of fierce competition—for the Darwinian theory of the struggle for existence applies as well to the social as the physical life—commands the attention of our government and people. Few deny that it is one forced upon us by the demands of our advanced civilization. And yet this so-called question of the hour has engaged the attention of men in times long anterior to our own, and the latest and most authoritative utterances on the subject are but the echoes of those of Columella delivered nearly eighteen centuries ago.

"I can not sufficiently wonder," he exclaims, "how it is that those who are eager to become speakers select an orator whose eloquence they can imitate; those devoting themselves to the subjects of mensuration and mathematics engage a master of the study of their choice; those desirous of becoming skilled in dancing and music very carefully seek for one who can train the voice and instruct them in singing, as well as for one who can direct the motions of the body; even those who wish to build call to their aid mechanics and architects; those committing their vessels to the deep, skilled pilots; those engaging in war, men versed in arms and acquainted with military affairs; and, not to mention each *seriatim*, for the calling which any one wishes to pursue, he employs the one best qualified to teach it; in fine, each one summons to his aid from the assembly of the wise a director for his mind, and an instructor in excellence; while husbandry alone, which beyond all doubt is nearest to, and, as it were, the blood relative of wisdom, stands as much in need of scholars as masters. For, until now, I have not only heard that there are, but I myself have seen, academics for rhetoricians, and, as I have said, for geometricians and mathematicians, but, what is more remarkable still, technical schools (*officinas*) for the most contemptible vices, for dressing food more daintily, for concocting more appetizing dishes and for hair-dressing, but I have never known any professing to be either teachers or students of agriculture.

"Now, even if we grant that the city may find itself without the professors of the above-mentioned arts, nevertheless, as was the case among the ancients, the State will continue to flourish, for towns were formerly sufficiently prosperous without the trivial arts, and *without advocates* [italics ours] *also*, and will remain so, but without husbandmen it is manifest that mortals can neither exist nor be supported."

And in summing up his observations he embodies, in words more forcible than any at my command, not his experience and sentiments only, but mine also, in regard to this entire subject: "But as for myself, when I consider the vastness of the whole matter, resembling that of some huge body, or the number of its parts like individual members, I fear lest my last day shall come upon me before I am able to understand the whole of rural economy."

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

LAME HORSE FROM BAD SHOEING.

I have a valuable horse that is sore footed from having his feet pared too much by the blacksmith. He does not appear to be foundered, but he shortens his gait when he first starts, and when he strikes frozen ground. Will he come out all right when his feet grow down? Is there anything I can do for him?

A CONSTANT READER.

Seaucyz, N. H., Nov. 21, 1881.

REMARKS.—If your opinion that the lameness is caused by too close paring, is a correct one, the horse will probably get over the tenderness after the feet have had time to grow down. It may be well to remove the shoes and keep the horse for a few weeks, on a soft, ground floor, and not work him on the road, or anywhere else where the ground is hard. Unless the tenderness showed itself immediately after shoeing, and the horse was never lame before, we should somewhat doubt the correctness of your opinion concerning the cause. It is true that many blacksmiths do pare some portions of horses' feet much more than is necessary, but it is generally, we believe, because patrons demand it. Horse owners want the feet to *look* well after shoeing, and so the blacksmith not only pares down the walls for a bearing for the shoe, but they often clean out the sole of the foot, cutting away just what nature designed should be a protection against tenderness or lameness. Then after setting the shoe, they pare and file the outside simply to make a good looking job in the eyes of patrons. Our instruction to a blacksmith having charge of our horses is, to do no more paring, cleaning and filing than is absolutely necessary or beneficial to the horse. Horses must have calks if they are worked on icy roads in winter, but on farms, and for road work in summer, we would have the shoes so thin as to bring the bottom of the foot as near the ground as possible. The frog should touch the ground, and take a portion of the weight of the horse at every step. Very thick shoes or high heel calks prevent this, and they also lift the foot so much that the air circulates underneath, causing it to dry too much, especially when standing on dry stable floors. Blacksmiths have enough to account for without being charged with that for which they are not responsible. They sometimes shoe a horse as they suppose a patron wants it shod, when, if they were instructed to shoe it according to their best judgment, they would do the job very differently. If your horse was not made lame by over-paring, but has feet that have been injured by high shoes or by standing too much on dry floors, it may be advisable to let him go barefooted this winter, when the snow is soft. A horse will slip less barefooted than on smooth shoes. The bare frog is a perfect protection against slipping when going down hill, and even on icy roads, a barefooted horse will slip less than many might suppose. Yet, if heavy loads are to be hauled on slippery roads, calked shoes must be worn.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

THE NATURE OF SWAMP MUCK AND ITS VALUE IN AGRICULTURE.

BY DR. JAMES R. NICHOLS.

The general term, *muck*, has been given to those deposits of dark vegetable matter stored in low bogs and meadows, and in the bottoms of ponds found upon many farms in the northern States. The term is, perhaps, as good as any that may be suggested, although it does not convey a clear idea of any special kinds or varieties, of which there are many. The name *peat* better distinguishes the deposits in most bogs and meadows, but is not applicable to those of frog ponds, and larger basins of water. If the meaning of the word *muck* could be restricted to that class of wet meadow products in which the natural alteration of plant tissues had proceeded far enough to fit them for agricultural uses, it would be a convenience, and remove some confusion which now exists among chemists and farmers. It is not difficult to describe the deposits, or their physical peculiarities, so as to make a clear distinction between what might be called *peat* and *muck*, and in this discussion I will endeavor to point out the distinction.

Origin of Muck Deposits.

The origin of the deposits under consideration is not by any means obscure, and may be stated in a few words. Wherever stagnant water has existed in low basins for a large number of years, a certain class of marsh plants, mosses and grasses have found favoring conditions for rapid and luxuriant growth. These plants have matured and decayed, finding a tomb in the impure waters which fostered their growth. As the decades of years and of centuries succeeded, with the alternations of heat and cold, the basins were filled up, so that surface water disappeared, and matted turf, compacted with low and worthless forms of grasses came into view. In most cases deciduous trees and water shrubs grew in association with the grasses and mosses, and the annual fall of leaves and dead twigs contributed not a little to filling up the stagnant ponds and puddles.

Whenever vegetable growths become dead and fall into moist earth with access of air, a process of eremacausis or slow combustion commences, which, proceeding slowly, ultimately ends in entire disorganization of tissue, and the product is called *humus*. The process is different when it falls into the water, as, in the case of large trees and limbs, a dozen centuries will hardly serve to disassociate and change their cellular structure, and some of the finest and most durable timber used in ship and house construction, has been exhumed from the vast swamps and bogs found in our own and other countries. The peats and mucks of our own low meadows, have to a large extent resulted from the decay of the smaller forms of vegetation, as grasses, leaves and moss. Of all the various forms which have contributed to our muck beds, the spongy mosses, constitute, undoubtedly, the most important constituent.

Their Age.

How long a time it requires to form a well advanced muck bed is not certainly known, but under ordinary conditions a hundred centuries may be required, or even five times that number. The stage of decay in which it is found does not always indicate the lapse of time consumed in the changes, as under favoring conditions of extreme heat, or access of air during frequent low stages of water, the changes proceed much more rapidly. It is probable that no muck deposits on our farms, suited to agricultural uses, can have existed, in their lower strata, less than the time, which, according to the Mosaic record, man has existed upon the earth.

Differences in Muck.

When these deposits are carefully examined by the eye, they present very marked and important physical differences. In texture and color, no two can hardly be said to be exactly alike. Some kinds consist almost entirely of the withered remains of plants, which have undergone but little alteration, except mechanically; in other varieties, the organized structure of the plant remains more or less distinctly visible; in other kinds, there is no obvious indication of plant structure existing. In the latter variety, nothing remains but a black unctuous *mud*, which, when dried, crumbles to a fine dust. I have sometimes found this form of dried muck to be denser than water, having a specific gravity as high as 1.23, but generally it is lower than water, not rising higher than 0.88.

Pond Mud, &c.

It is not necessary, perhaps, to make further lines of distinction in low meadow deposits. As regards pond sediments, they belong to a distinct class of waste vegetable material, although identical, often, so far as the organic constituents go, with bog deposits.

Three forms of meadow deposits have been pointed out; those of the *first class*, may be called the *immature* forms, where the constituents are coarse and spongy, with fragments of twigs, rushes, and leaves, seen in distinct outline. In the *second class*, the organized structure of plants can be recognized, but the decay has proceeded so far as to break them up almost into indistinguishable forms. These products are rather light and spongy, but much denser than those of the first class. The *third class* is the black, dense, perfectly metamorphosed humus, with a clayey feel, and when touched, leaves discoloration upon the finger.

The two first varieties I will designate as *peat*—the last *muck*. All these forms when dried are useful for *fuel*, but not for employment upon the farm, unless possibly as absorbents for liquid manures, as a whole. The two first forms had better be cast out of the category of useful farm agents, and attention only be given to *muck* proper.

Muck Proper.

Muck then, considered as the most advanced of all bog deposits, is easily recognized by its peculiar physical conditions, and is the only substance about which farmers need concern themselves; and it now remains to consider its value, as a manurial agent. The large amount of water mixed with muck in its natural state, is a most serious obstacle to its farm employment. It may be stated to hold a minimum of 60 per cent., and a maximum of 92 per cent., the average being, in New England mucks, not far from 85 per cent. of water. To cut out a water soaked substance like this, from a treacherous, spongy bog, lift it into carts, and haul it long distances, involves great labor and expense. If it is allowed to air dry on the spot where exhumed, some advantage is gained, but it must be remembered that under the most favorable weather and conditions for drying, much water remains to be transported. Experiments at my farm upon air dried mucks, extended over five seasons, showed that water remained in the material to an extent varying from 30 to 47 per cent. It is probable that not many farmers have ever seen a specimen of absolutely dry muck; that is, such specimens as the chemist has in hand in making his analysis in the laboratory. The absolute water-free muck, is a light substance usually, which the wind will scatter as it does a handful of feathers. When muck is spread upon a field, much of it blows away in the high winds of summer, when it is very dry from exposure to the hot sun. This is a source of loss not usually taken into account. The light mucks oftener belong to the first and second classes, or what I have designated as peats.

Chemistry of Muck Beds.

The chemistry of a muck bed is interesting, and deserves brief remark, although the analysis which I have to present will afford information upon this point. It is plain that a substance so under the constant influence and action of water can contain no ingredients *soluble* in that fluid; and hence we fail to find in the ash of muck, any of the soluble forms of plant food. None of the valuable soluble salts of potash, soda, or phosphoric acid are present in the muck bed, unless in extremely minute quantities. In soils on higher lands, the humus and ash contain all these soluble agents, derived from the decay of vegetation. It must be kept in mind that vegetation decays *in water* under different conditions from that when exposed to air, or in the presence of oxygen, and a different condition of the resultant mass must be expected.

The greater portion of the inorganic material of muck is lime in its insoluble form, silica, iron, alumina, and often magnesia. Of the alkaline earths, lime is present in greatest abundance. From a careful consideration of the results of analysis of a large number of specimens of muck made during the past quarter of a century, under my observation, I have no hesitation in saying *that the ashes of muck are practically worthless to the farmer as a source of plant food.* I say *practically* worthless; meaning by this, that the inorganic constituents of mucks, contain so little of valuable, available, plant nutriment, that if they held no other forms, they would be entirely unworthy of attention, even under the most favorable conditions. This view is sustained by the investigations of Kane, Sullivan, Vaux, Regnault, Mulder, Baer, Peterson, Anderson, Wagner, and many other eminent chemists in Europe, and Johnson, Storer, and other chemists in this country; in short, it is sustained by the analysis of every competent chemist whose researches have extended in that direction.

Nitrogen in Muck.

As regards the other forms of valuable plant food contained in muck, I have only to consider *nitrogen*. All analyses prove the presence of potential nitrogen in mucks, and in some, it is found in considerable quantities. The form in which it exists, is in combination with organic acids, the humic, ulmic, crenic, and apocrenic. It has been alleged that free ammonia has been found in some bogs, but I have failed to detect it in any specimens coming under notice, and no reliable chemist so far as I can learn, has declared its presence. Nitrogen is the most costly, and, indeed, the most valuable, of all forms of nutriment needed by plants, and the question of its value as found in mucks, is one of high importance in this discussion.

Analysis of Mucks.

In the table of analysis presented below, a clear view is given of the amount found in three typical specimens of muck, one of which is from a bog on my farm at Winnekeni, one from a remarkable deposit in Boxford, Mass., the other from a well known bog at Plaistow, N. H. The equivalent in ammonia (NH_3) is also presented.

	Nitrogen.	Ammonia.
Winnekeni farm, per cent.,	0.56	0.68
Plaistow, N. H., " "	0.31	0.37
Boxford, Mass., " "	0.70	0.61

The above is as found in the *wet* condition. In the *water-free* state it stands as follows:

	Nitrogen.	Ammonia.
Winnekeni farm, per cent.,	2.47	3.00
Plaistow, N. H., " "	2.13	2.55
Boxford, " "	2.52	2.59

The average of fifteen determinations of nitrogen in wet mucks, by Prof. Johnson, is 0.42
Water free, ... 2.31

It will be noticed that Prof. Johnson's determination shows a little higher percentage of nitrogen in the dry muck, than those which I have presented, but the difference is trifling. Taking muck beds as they are found in the northern States, it will be safe to assume that they hold on an average, in the absolute dry condition, about two and a quarter pounds (2¼ lbs.) of potential nitrogen in each one hundred pounds.

The following table gives the results of the analysis of five specimens of muck, showing the amount of water, organic matter, and ash, contained in each:

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.
Water,	77.36	88.49	76.46	89.35	39.74
Organic (vegetable and volatile matter),	19.65	14.39	22.07	9.64	5.30
Ash, including sand,	2.99	0.12	0.57	1.01	57.96
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

In No. 5, will be noticed a very great dissimilarity of composition from the others. This specimen was taken from the bare bed of Plug Pond in Haverhill, Mass., and in appearance is densely black, fine, and "well calculated to deceive." From this bed a neighbor had taken many hundred cartloads at great expense, for use upon his farm. It is a specimen typical of usual pond deposits, which are largely employed in agriculture all over the northern States. They are worthless specimens.

No. 1 is the sample from my farm, from which the nitrogen determination was made, as given above. The amount of lime contained in the ash (not given in table) is 1.7 in the dry state. It is fully decomposed, dark, and every way of excellent quality.

No. 2 is the sample from Plaistow, N. H., and contains a less amount of water, a larger percentage of ash and organic matter than No. 1, but is of superior quality.

No. 3 is from Boxford; contains about the same amount of water as No. 2, much less ash, and more organic matter. The nitrogen contained in the last specimens has been given above.

No. 4 is from a large basin called "Sour Meadow," on the margin of Lake Kenosa in Haverhill, Mass. This specimen holds nearly 90 per cent. of water, and has but 1 per cent of ash. It is not well decomposed, having fragments of leaves, grasses, etc., in the mass. The five samples have been selected with the view of presenting the extremes of variation, in muck beds which are drawn upon by New England farmers, for agricultural purposes. It is now possible to present a clear estimate of the value of the nitrogen in the best specimens. No. 1 from my farm meadow contains in each ton (2000 pounds), of *water-free* muck, 49.40 pounds; this at 15 cents, (a fair price) gives a money value of $7.41 for the nitrogen. The value of all the mineral and nitrogenous plant food it contains may be stated as follows:

Nitrogen,	7.41
Lime,	.30
Other salts,	.10
	$7.81

The cost of procuring one ton of absolutely dry muck, may be understood from the fact that *ten tons* of the wet mass is required, estimating the water at 90 per cent., which is a fair average for successive seasons. A ton of wet meadow muck of best quality, is thus shown to have a value of seventy-eight cents (78 cents) as fertilizing material for farm crops, estimating its mineral plant food constituents as we estimate that found in cow dung.

Analysis of Cow Manure.

With the view of affording a comparison of muck with fresh dung, a sample taken from my barn stalls, the droppings from cows in milk, is here presented. It contained of

Water,	81.08
Organic matter,	15.96
Ash,	2.96
	100.00

The result of this examination may appear somewhat startling, inasmuch as it shows that the fresh cow dung from the barn, contains *more* water, and *less* organic matter and ash than is found in the muck on the farm forty rods distant. It would appear (other things being equal) that the muck is as valuable, or even more valuable than the dung, but important considerations come in to dispel this illusion. A complete analysis gave, as contained in each ton of the fresh dung, the following amounts of valuable constituents.

Nitrogen,	5.11 lbs.
Phosphoric acid,	3.35 "
Potash,	2.00 "

The nitrogen in manure has a higher value than that in muck, but estimating it the same, with the phosphoric acid, potash, etc., the value stands as follows:

5 1-10 lbs. of nitrogen,	76
3⅓ lbs. of Phosphoric acid,	42
2 lbs. of Potash,	14
Lime and other salts,	33
	$1.65

Analysis of Liquid Excrement.

The nitrogenous and mineral value of muck, stands to fresh cow dung as 78 cents to $1.65 per ton, water soaked; or nearly three to one in favor of the latter; but it must be remembered that fresh cattle droppings do not represent *manure* as found in farmers' barn cellars. This consists of a mixture of the *liquid* excrement with the solid. A ton of fresh urine, as determined in analysis from specimens collected at my barn, gave the following results:

Nitrogen,	17.5 lbs.
Phosphoric acid,	10.12 "
Potash,	13.9 "

This result indicates the very high value of liquid manures, giving a value per ton of about $35 00, the estimate being made in accordance with that for muck and for solid excrement. A ton of well mixed manure, containing equal proportions of the solids and liquids, has a money value of not far from *four dollars*, or, this is the value of the manure stored in the barn cellar at Winnekeni farm, as learned from analysis.

Muck Humus.

Let us look for a moment at the nature and value of the naked *muck humus*, that is, what remains after the separation of the nitrogen and salts, and contrast it with exhausted manure. The humus or "geine," as Dana persists in calling it, which results from the decay or *mouldering* of vegetable matter *under water*, or in moist places, is a very different substance from that which results from the decay or decomposition of hay and grains in passing through the digestive and assimilating organs of animals. It must be admitted that muck very rarely represents merely the mineral constituents of the plants from whose remains it has been formed, neither does its organic portion represent those structures, as when changed under other, or usual conditions. In virtue of a kind of dialysis or chemical reaction, not only mineral constituents are changed or abstracted, but vegetable tissues undergo a metamorphosis which renders the changed mass not as well suited as other varieties of carbonaceous material to form fertile soils.

Hay and other forms of food consumed by animals in passing through living organs, have their elements so acted upon that they speedily pass into putrefactive fermentation, which breaks down tissues or cellular structures with great rapidity. The catalysis of life impresses a peculiar power upon animal foods and introduces a force of disassociation not noticed in other processes; hence *manure* has properties not found in any substance adapted to the nourishment of plants. Muck humus and dung humus can only be contrasted to the advantage of the latter. The former resists change (necessary change) when applied to silicious soils; and when muck humus is mixed in association with manure, the former is distinguishable on fields often for several years after the latter has gone from sight. In any just and accurate estimation of the comparative value of muck and manure, this important factor must not be lost sight of.

Farm Trials of Muck.

To present in detail the observations and experiments upon muck, made at Winnekeni farm in the past quarter of a century, would require space only afforded by a large volume. In this paper a brief outline or summary is presented. In trials of muck upon the farm, a systematic plan has been adopted, with the view of securing reliable results, and these show that *muck is not manure* in the sense in which that term is used. They further show that the substance cannot be made into manure without an expenditure for added materials, and at a cost of time and labor which do not comport, under usual conditions, with proper farm economy. The simple mixing of lime with muck betters its condition, but it does not change it into manure.

If muck in its partially dried condition is to be changed into a mass, corresponding in some particulars with manure, not only lime, but nitrogenous salts, potash, soda, soluble phosphoric acid and other less valuable forms of plant food must be added. I have succeeded in forming artificial manures at the farm, using muck as a bulk basis and absorbent, which afforded very gratifying results when applied to growing crops, but the cost rose, in all cases, in due proportion to its value.

In these experiments the material in hand to begin with, muck, had a certain known value, and it would be manifestly empirical to expect from the use of that material benefits which it had not the power to bestow. In trials upon fields, in most instances, I have not learned that the raw material, air dried, or wet, gave results in increased fertility, corresponding with expenditures incurred in its application. On dry silicious soils it has not supplied the place or served the purpose of natural upland humus. On medium low lands it has rarely indicated through successive seasons, any influence for good.

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1881.

COUNTRY MEETING

OF THE

State Board of Agriculture,

At BRIDGEWATER,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,

December 6, 7, and 8.

Specially Reported for the New England Farmer.

FIRST DAY.

The meeting was called to order Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, by Mr. Lane, the president of the Plymouth Co. Agricultural Society, and also of the West Bridgewater Farmers' Club. He introduced as the first speaker, Dr. Lewis G. Lowe of Bridgewater, who gave a very entertaining historical sketch of the town of Bridgewater from the date of its purchase from the Indians in 1649, to the present time, when it is one of the most active manufacturing villages in eastern Massachusetts, being engaged in iron work, manufacture of cotton gins and cotton presses of great power. The soil of Bridgewater is varied, but rather poor generally, but free from stones. Corn, roots, fruits and vegetables, all are produced successfully. The acreage of woodland has increased lately in this vicinity, but the land under tillage has been tilled better than formerly, and shows more care. There are five societies in the County, and the Bridgewater Society distributes more premiums at its exhibitions than any other society in the State, with one exception. It has admirable grounds and buildings, and its debt is very moderate and small compared with its assets. His address closed by welcoming the board in very cordial terms, and inviting the visitors to visit the farm of the President the next morning.

The next speaker was Dr. Geo. A. Bowen, of Woodstock, Ct. His subject was "Winter Feeding and Digestion." He stated that the position of the farmer of to-day, demands his close study of scientific principles in order to take advantage of all we know in regard to the quality of different kinds of fodder, and of the principles of digestion in order to realize the best results in feeding. The food required by animals depends much upon their nature, and the work they do. The nervous and active deer needs different food from the inactive, sleepy bear, and the growing animal needs different food from mature stock. We must supply materials for maintaining heat as well as growth. The temperature of animals varies from 90° to 107°. Singularly, the Arctic fox is one of the warmest blooded of all animals. In ordering our rations for animals, chemical analysis may guide us, but is not always to be depended upon—digestibility of food is quite as important a consideration as the composition. For young animals, milk is the best of all food; it contains in 1000 parts; water, 873; casein, 48; sugar, 40; butter, 34; phosphates, 2.70; salts, 2.30. This shows how a perfect food for growing stock is to be formed, and the large proportion of water is to be noted, as well as the considerable amount of fat and sugar. Salt is useful in feeding, but not in excess.

The Doctor then proceeded to describe the digestive organs of the ox and horse, and other animals, aiding his description by admirable drawings on the blackboard. The large stomach of the ox, intended for coarse fodder, was contrasted with the comparatively small stomach of the horse and hog, whose natural food is somewhat more concentrated. The different organs require different systems of feeding; while horses and swine would do better with frequent feeding, cows and sheep demand no more than two meals per day, their large paunches easily holding a large supply of fodder. The grain fed to cows is best mixed with the hay as cut feed, so as to undergo slow digestion. Steaming food for cows, he thought not advisable, in general. But regularity in the time and manner of feeding are very important. The Doctor closed by calling attention to the great importance of the feeding of cattle on whose growth the wealth of the country largely depends.

Mr. Hadwen of Worcester, remarked that he agreed with the essayist, and that he thought it good economy to feed cows well, with the best of care, and the best of feed; uniform care, too, is very important. He found cabbages excellent in bridging over the time in November and December, between grass and hay; feeds cabbages directly after milking, being particular to give no decayed leaves, and to clean up all refuse directly after feeding; with these precautions, the cabbage will not affect the taste of the milk. Calves may be fed with hay tea, made twelve hours before feeding, and fed at 90° to 95°, by pouring in hot milk. They do better, however, to suck their dam; if she is a Jersey, however, the milk is too rich to give them the whole of it.

Mr. Bowditch of Framingham, said Jersey calves on their own dam would do well if allowed only about half the milk; he preferred, however, to put them on a wet nurse of some other breed, and use the Jersey milk for butter. Calves when fed by hand, demand much care to give the milk at proper temperature, say 95° to 97°, and if they suck each others' ears or tails after drinking, give them a lump of linseed cake to chew, which will usually cure them of this trick. Bruised oats and linseed meal are both excellent feed for calves, but nothing is so good as milk, if it can be afforded.

Mr. Sessions asked if it would pay to feed an average calf by suckling, when yearlings are not worth on the average, $15.

Mr. Bowditch thought it would pay quite as well to feed the milk to pigs at present prices, but in New Hampshire, they think it pays to raise steers on milk. Calves are not inclined to over-eat, and he would give them all the corn meal, bruised oats and linseed meal they would eat; he believed calves often suffered from not having enough to eat; seldom, if ever, from eating too much.

Mr. Peterson of Marshfield, said he milks two teats, and allows the calf to suck two; when two weeks old, will begin to eat bruised oats and meal; never allows any one to feed or milk his cows except when he attends a meeting of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Bowditch said he fed carrots, 1½ bushel per day, or more, and liked them better than any root for winter butter; uses no grain for butter but corn meal; any other grain, shorts or oil cake makes inferior butter which will not satisfy his trade. If he were feeding for quantity of milk, would use shorts.

Mr. Whittaker thought brewers' grains, salt hay and water would force a larger flow of milk than any other feed.

Some discussion followed as to the flavor of turnips and cabbages being perceived in the milk. Several speakers stated that if those vegetables were fed *clean* just after milking, the flavor would not be noticed; while it was also stated that eating a very small portion of onions would flavor the flesh, when killed soon afterward, very seriously.

Dr. Wakefield feeds cotton seed meal, three to four quarts per day, and has no trouble from it.

Mr. Grinnell thought twice a day often enough to feed swine.

Dr. Bowen said frequent feeding to swine, of small quantities, favored digestion and assimilation of food, and yet it might be a question whether this advantage was worth the time required to feed often; this must be decided by each farmer for himself.

At one o'clock a recess of an hour was given for dinner, and at two o'clock the meeting was called to order to listen to a few remarks from Governor Long, who said that he hoped that his attendance would be taken as he meant it, as a matter of duty and not for political effect; that he thought the State was ready to do more for agriculture, and that farmers ought to do more themselves; that he was ready to request any reasonable demand that would promote agriculture, and called for suggestions from the meeting. President Lane moved that the farmers request the founding of an Experimental Station at the Agricultural College at Amherst, and the motion was carried by acclamation; the Governor heartily agreed to recommend it.

Hon. A. P. Slade of Somerset was then introduced and read a paper on "Strawberry and Apple Culture." Before 1863 few strawberries were raised in Bristol County. Boston was supplied by gardeners in the neighborhood. From 1866 till the present time the culture had largely increased, till now it covered from ¼ acre to 5 acres of almost every farm. The Wilson had been the leading berry for 15 years, but within four or five years it has blighted badly, and cultivators are looking for some other sort. Two obstacles beset strawberry growers, the blight and grub. No remedy is known for the blight, but the grub may be picked out by hand if not too numerous; the land should have been planted one or two years after breaking from sod before planting to strawberries, and a little fertilizer applied near the plants at first hoeing, they will then frequently outgrow the grubs, which attack chiefly the old plants.

A discouraging feature of small fruit growing is the competition from the south which takes off the edge of the early market. The only way to meet it is to grow superior fruit and pack it in extra nice style in new baskets; a demand will thus surely grow up for "native" fruit at a good price. On the whole the prospects for the strawberry growers are not very flattering, and he would not advise inexperienced persons to plant largely.

The Apple is however the most important by far of all our New England fruits, whether for sale or home use. Our soil and climate suit it to perfection and we ought to increase our orchards largely; we must wait indeed for a return, but this will teach patience.

Good red winter apples will pay well if well taken care of. A strong clay loam with good drainage is best for apples. They will endure the sweep of winds well; select good trees from the nursery rows and pay well for them; they are cheapest in the end.

The insect enemies of the apple are the borer, the canker worm and the codling moth. The latter is far the worst to fight, the others are comparatively easy to destroy. The best remedies he knew were to scrape the rough bark from the trees, destroy the windfall apples, and "dig about the tree and dung it;" insects attack neglected trees more than thrifty ones. The best manure for apple trees is bone dust and ashes mixed; large applications of rank animal manures are not beneficial.

The bearing year may be changed by thinning out the fruit on the even year and then manuring in the fall; where the buds have been eaten by partridges in the winter before the even year, the tree will bear on the odd year. The thinning may be done rapidly by means of a pole furnished with a spindle and hook at the end, taking off ¼ the fruit when the size of walnuts, after a few years of this practice the tree will set fruit every year, but will still need attention to thinning.

In picking it was very important to handle carefully without chafing or bruising, and place them at once into a cool cellar or shed. A good cellar has double doors and windows to prevent the temperature from rising in warm weather. The best temperature is about 32°, even as low as 27° does no harm. Hay on the floor above is good to prevent temperature from rising in Spring. In marketing it is very important to assort the apples as to size, and to pack in clean new barrels, pressing the head in with a screw or lever so that the fruit cannot shake. The demand for American apples in England and Europe is enormous and constantly growing; their climate will not produce good apples, and we know of no safer thing for a young man to do than to plant a large orchard of Baldwin and other winter apples, and take good care of it; the reward will be slow but much surer than with small fruit. Mr. Brown of Lunenburg said he had kept apples as above advised, in good order till June. His trees are 33 feet apart; believed trees would bear every year if cultivated and manured with ashes.

Mr. Artemus Hale, 99 years of age, was introduced. He begged to be excused from making a speech on account of his age! His bright eye and quick nerve were remarkable, and spoke for him however.

Capt. J. B. Moore of Concord, had something to say about "Peaches;" the borer was not very difficult to destroy; cutting him out with a knife and washing the tree with a mixture of whale oil soap, cow dung and clay, with a little sulphur mixed in; but if it was by no means so easy to cure the disease known as the yellows. The nature of the disease was not well understood; it generally appears in a productive season. Peach trees need severe pruning, and he advised pruning so as to form horizontal branches at four feet from the ground; he would cut out the large shoots, leaving the smaller ones, which are more fruitful. Thinning peaches is very important; if you take off one-half of a full crop, you will get as many bushels, and the fruit will be both larger and higher flavored. The best manure for peaches is bone and ashes; animal manure makes too rank wood, and winter killing follows. He thought plums should get more attention, the black wart and curculio are the two things to fight; the former must be cut out and burned: the latter shaken off upon a sheet and killed.

Prof. Goessmann, of Amherst, was asked to state the result of his investigations about the yellows in peaches. He replied that he had attained no definite certain result, but was inclined to hope for some benefit from the application of muriate of potash.

Judge Chas. G. Davis was then introduced, who read a paper on the "Advantages of a Standard Length for Carriage Axles." The axle in common use in eastern Massachusetts, R. I., and Conn., was the longest, or one of the longest in the world, being 5 feet 5 inches, outside the tires. Various other lengths prevail in different States and countries. Considerable inconvenience resulted in travelling by carriage from one part of the country to another, or in selling carriages to be sent from one section to another, since in sandy or soft roads a carriage will not run easily in the track made by one of different gauge. Why not adopt a uniform gauge? That of the horse railways would be a good one, viz., 4ft. A narrow wagon draws more easily on an uneven road than a wide one.

Mr. Brown thought there were some advantages in having wagons of different gauge, since they tend to crush out the ruts and leave the road smoother.

Capt. Moore thought farmers who go to market and carry barrels or bushel boxes abreast, could not easily reduce the width of their wagons, and a narrow wagon loaded with hay would more easily upset.

Judge Davis replied he would make wagons longer to carry sufficient loads, rather than wider. In sandy roads different gauges are very troublesome.

Secretary Russell then read a paper prepared by Prof. Stockbridge of Amherst, on "Harvesting Corn." Three ways prevail of harvesting corn, the western way was to pluck the ears, leaving the stalks in the field to be ploughed under or burned next year; this is too wasteful of the fodder to be advised in these parts, where one of the other methods is to be recommended.

Another method is to top the corn when the grain begins to harden, leaving the ears and butts to ripen till after frost; this damages the value of the fodder in the husk, and has no advantage over the other and better method of cutting up by the butts and stooking it just before the frost injures the fodder. He would place twelve rows in a row of stooks, so as to give a chance to plough between the stooks, and sow grain before they are removed. Rye straw makes good bands to bind the bundles. The corn should be carted to the barn to be husked, as soon as cured, and husking in the field avoided, since a considerable waste of fodder would result.

At the evening meeting, Dr. J. R. Nichols gave a very interesting lecture upon the different kinds of sugar.

Sugar, we say, is sweet, but this is only a figure of speech; we mean that we perceive a sweet sensation when it comes to our tongue; other things also are sweet; as, sugar of lead, a poison, and glycerine, a residue of the soap maker. Sugar is a very important item of commerce; we use some 780,000 tons of it in a year, and the demand is rapidly increasing.

There are different kinds of sugar, known as cane sugar, milk sugar, and glucose or starch sugar, known also as grape sugar.

Cane sugar is distinguished by being easily crystallized; it is also much sweeter than other kinds, and is obtained chiefly from the sugar cane and from the maple tree. It is the refined sugar of the market when pure, and is contained, to some extent, in many fruits. Beets, also, contain it. In the growth and ripening of these sugar-yielding plants, the starch is converted into cane sugar; this has not yet been done by man in his laboratory, but we can readily convert starch into grape sugar, or glucose, at a slight expense, and this is now very largely done at the west.

This industry has proved profitable in the extreme, and is rapidly increasing. The product is identical with grape sugar in fruits, and is very largely used to adulterate molasses and cane sugar; also for making soft candies, and for beer and ale. It is not known to be injurious to the health, although it is regarded with suspicion by learned men; but it is well known to be weak and poor in sweetening power, and being mixed for sale with the stronger cane sugar, it is a fraud upon the public which ought to be stopped.

We should have a law providing for its sale under its own name only, similar to the law regulating the sale of oleomargarine, and the law for the sale of fertilizers; let every package be branded with the percentage of cane sugar and of glucose it contains, and the buyer will know what he is paying for. The doctor alluded to the well known history of the sugar blockade in France under Napoleon I. which originated the sugar beet industry in that country, and remarked that an occasional Napoleon was needed to stir up the world.

CONSUMPTION CURE.

DR. R. V. PIERCE: *Dear Sir*—Death was hourly expected by myself and friends. My physicians pronounced my disease consumption, and said I must die. I began taking your "Discovery" and "Pellets." I have used nine bottles and am wonderfully relieved. I am now able to ride out.

ELIZABETH THORNTON, Montongo, Ark.

THE MAINE STATE FAIR.—An adjourned meeting of the Maine State Agricultural Society was held at Lewiston last Thursday evening, at which an order was passed instructing the President of the Society to purchase for its use the Lewiston Trotting Park grounds and all the appurtenances belonging thereto, provided a perfect title to the same can be obtained for the sum of $5000. The committee on location were unanimously of the opinion that these grounds offered the best obtainable site in the State, in which opinion probably every one who visited the fair last September, will be ready to agree. It is understood that the owners of the property are willing to sell it at the price named, only to the Society, so that it is probable that the State Agricultural Fair will become a permanent institution of Lewiston.

AN AGREEABLE Dressing for the Hair, that will stop its falling, has been long sought for. Parker's Hair Balsam, distinguished for its purity, fully supplies this want.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

From D. Appleton & Co., New York and Boston, we have received

SUICIDE: AN ESSAY ON COMPARATIVE MORAL STATISTICS. By Henry Morselli, M. D.

The treatment of suicide as a scientific question perhaps seems a little odd, but the author, who is a professor of psychological medicine in the Royal University, Turin, and physician-in-chief to the Royal Asylum for the Insane, finds no difficulty in so dealing with it, and presents a mass of comparative statistics, drawn from all European countries, which are not only interesting, but startling. It is really surprising to see how even the tendency to self-destruction appears to be subject to a natural law, so that the number of suicides in any country in a given time may be predicted with almost absolute certainty, and even the proportion that will seek death by any particular means, how many of them will be men and how many women, how many old and how many young, particulars which would seem to be perfectly arbitrary.

THE FORMATION OF VEGETABLE MOULD THROUGH THE ACTION OF WORMS. By Charles Darwin, F. R. S.

To the agricultural reader this work of Mr. Darwin's will have a decided interest, as bearing upon the theory of soil formation, and the comparative values of various soils for agricultural purposes. The author's theory, is, in brief, that for the formation of what we call "vegetable mould" we are principally indebted to the labors of earthworms, through whose organizations he considers that all the vegetable mould in the world has passed, and will pass again many times, being thus fitted for the sustenance of plants, and the perpetuation of vegetable life. The theory will perhaps hardly meet with general acceptance, but it is presented in a very able manner, and many new and interesting facts are brought out in connection with its discussion.

HALF HOURS WITH GREEK AND LATIN AUTHORS. By G. H. Jennings and W. S. Johnstone.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that to go to the trouble of reading the Greek and Latin authors in the original tongues, now that good translations are accessible, was like swimming across a river, instead of taking the bridge. Few persons in these busy days, have time to make any very extended studies of the ancient authors, even in translations, and yet their writings are so much a part of modern literature that some acquaintance with them is really necessary. The selections in this volume cover a wide field, and are happily chosen from the best English translations, with the view of giving as comprehensive a view of ancient literature as is possible in a single volume.

FLORIDA FOR TOURISTS, INVALIDS AND SETTLERS By George M. Barbour.

A very well-written illustrated volume by a correspondent of the *Chicago Times*, who accompanied General Grant on his tour through Florida two years ago, and embodying the result of personal observation and study in all sections of the State. The author says he has no land to sell, and no personal interest of any kind to further, but has aimed simply to tell the truth about the country and people. The book is full of just the kind or information that everyone wants who intends to visit or to settle in Florida, and is admirably arranged.

THE VERBALIST. By Alfred Ayres.

This is a very concise little manual "devoted to brief discussions of the right and the wrong use of words, and to some other matters of interest to those who would speak and write with propriety." The author is sometimes a little pedantic, and often by percritical, but his criticisms on the misuse of words are, in the main, just and well-put.

From T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia,

A PRINCE OF BREFFNY. By Thomas P. May.

This is a historical novel, the action of which is laid in the latter half of the last century, and which details the career of a young Irishman, the descendant of an ancient but impoverished house, who joins the army of the King of Spain, and by his courage and loyalty attains to rank and fortune, as General Count O'Reilly, Governor of Madrid, and Captain-General of Andalusia. Of course there is a love-story and love-making, and a happy conclusion, as there should be. The story is very well told and some of the characters quite well drawn.

THE INITIALS, A. Z. By the Baroness Tautphoeus.

Thirty years ago, or thereabouts, this charming story of German home life attained a wide spread popularity both in England, where it was first published, and in this country, for its simple and good-humored pictures of German life and character, as well as for the interest of the story itself. We are glad to see a new edition of the work although we fear that the present generation of novel readers will not find it exciting enough for their taste, and that it will have to look for its readers among those who made acquaintance with it a generation ago.

Messrs. Peterson & Brothers also publish, *Bertha's Baby*, by Gustave Droz, which they announce as "a literary gem of the utmost brilliancy," but which, we must confess, does not strike us at all in that way. A new edition of *Helen's Babies* with an illustrated cover, comes from the same house. We had supposed that these interesting children were as extinct as "Pinafore," and could not be "warmed over" for a new set of readers, but we were apparently mistaken.

PURPLE AND GOLD is the title of a very pretty and unique volume just issued by James R. Osgood & Co., of this city. It is made up of a number of loose leaflets, caught together with a knot of purple ribbon, and bearing on the outside exquisite drawings of the golden-rod and aster. The pages themselves are filled with poems in praise of these flowers, by Whittier, Bryant, Emerson, Mrs. Thaxter, the Goodale sisters and other of our New England singers. The pages are printed only upon one side, and the letter press is surrounded by a tasteful but simple border of purple and gold. Miss Kate Sanborn and Miss Rosina Emmett are the designers of this charming little work, which is expressly designed for the "holiday" season.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The Washington correspondent of the *Journal* says that a bill has been prepared, which will be introduced in Congress at some time during the present session, providing for the enlargement of the scope of the Department of Agriculture, by the addition of certain powers and duties to those already existing, to be performed by the head of the Department, subject to such duties as may hereafter be assigned by law or by the President. It provides that the name of the department shall be the Department of Agriculture and Statistics, and instructs the Commissioner to organize a bureau of geology surveys; a bureau of transportation, for the collection of all facts relating to the cost of plant and construction, rates of freight and fares, and such other information as may be important to the industries of the country; a bureau of manufactures, for the collection of statistics of the cost of manufacturing, persons employed, raw material used, etc.; a bureau of education and labor. It is not proposed to change the organization of the Department, but to add the above bureaus to it, as representing the industries connected with agriculture, and the investigations which would benefit it. The elevation of the Commissioner to a Cabinet position is left where all other departments are left under the law.

Commissioner Loring in his annual report of the operations of the Department during the past year, after referring to the work which had been laid out by his predecessor in office, and which was in progress when he assumed the position, says that he has endeavored to conduct the experiments in which he found the Department engaged "with an ardent desire to bring them to legitimate conclusions in the spirit of an investigator, and not in the spirit of an advocate." He thinks the scope of the Department should be so enlarged that it may be enabled to enter upon investigations into industrial subjects more or less nearly connected with agricultural interests. He narrates briefly what has been attempted and what accomplished in each of the divisions of the department. In the entomological division the work has been chiefly upon the insects deleterious to fruit trees, and the results are soon to be published Preparations are already made for ascertaining data to predict the probable action of the Rocky Mountain locusts in 1882. The statistical division has too small a force for the work expected of it, and enlarged means and facilities are necessary before it can accomplish results commensurate with the importance of the matter. An agent of the department is now in Europe making investigations with a view to the better understanding of the subject of forestry in this country. The artesian well begun at Fort Lyon and bored to a depth of 450 feet as an experiment in this method of irrigating arid regions has been abandoned, because a commission of geological experts have reported that no water is likely to be found there. The examination of wool fibres with reference to their fineness and strength, which has been in progress some time, has progressed so far as to show that the common notion that we cannot produce the finest wools in this country and maintain their excellence by careful breeding, is erroneous. The sorghum experiment this year does not appear to be enthusiastically regarded by the commissioner, and some of the facts stated with regard to his predecessor's tea plantation in South Carolina show that that experiment thus far has been wretchedly managed. Several pages are devoted to a statement of the results of investigations of contagious diseases of animals, which have been productive of much good.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The first message of President Arthur is a very carefully written and well considered State paper, calm and dignified in its tone, direct and simple in style, and cautiously progressive in its recommendations. The document is very long, but will of course be eagerly read both in this country and abroad, as outlining for the first time the policy which will be pursued by the new Administration. We regret that our space permits us to give only the merest abstract of some of its principal features.

The message begins with a brief and tender allusion to the murder of President Garfield, and the universal tributes of sorrow and sympathy which the sad event drew from foreign governments and peoples, and especially from Great Britain. The first subject considered is that of our relations with other nations, to the discussion of which, a larger amount of attention is given than has been usual in similar documents. Nothing has occurred worthy of notice in our diplomatic intercourse with England, except the correspondence with regard to the Panama Canal, to be referred to in another place, and the feeling of good will between our own government and that of Great Britain was never more marked than at present. No new questions respecting the status of our naturalized citizens in Germany have arisen, and causes of complaint have practically ceased through the liberal action of the imperial government in accepting our often-pressed views on the subject. The application of the treaty of 1868 to the lately acquired Rhenish province has received very earnest attention. A definite and lasting agreement on this point is confluently expected. Our intercourse with Spain has been friendly, and it is believed that the Spanish government will promptly accede to our request for the payment of the late awards of the Spanish and American claims commission. Our relations with Russia are cordial, but it is advisable that some arrangement should be made to secure proper consideration for American citizens, especially those of the Jewish faith, who may visit that country. The spirit of good-will which has always existed between France and the United States has been strengthened by the presence of the official representatives of that country at the Yorktown celebration. With Italy an agreement has been arranged, to put at rest conflicts of jurisdiction in the case of crimes on shipboard.

The abolition of all discriminating duties against such colonial productions of the Dutch East Indies as are imported hither from Holland, is recommended. Correspondence has been carried on with Turkey, looking to the better protection of American missionaries in that Empire, and demanding the punishment of the murderer of Dr. Parsons. A request of the Swiss government that our consular agents be permitted to act for that country in countries where she has no official representatives, has been granted; a protest has also been made to Switzerland against her custom of exporting criminals and paupers to this country.

Our relations with Mexico and the Central American States have been and continue cordial. The questions growing out of the proposed interoceanic water way across the Isthmus of Panama, are of grave, national importance. Negotiations with Colombia, looking to the practical execution of the treaty of 1846, were met in Columbia by a proposal for renewed negotiation on a modified basis. Meanwhile, this government learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the canal, guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligations as the sole guarantor of the integrity of Colombian territory, and of the neutrality of the canal itself. President Garfield had felt it his duty to bring the matter to the attention of the European powers, and in pursuance of the same line of policy, it had been proposed to the Government of Great Britain to abrogate such clauses of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as do not comport with the obligations of the United States towards Colombia.

The war between Chili and Peru has led to serious misapprehension, in those countries, of the position of the United States, and a special envoy has therefore been accredited to them, with general instructions, which, it is hoped, will lead to a peaceful solution of the difficulty.

The treaties lately negotiated with China have been duly ratified on both sides, and the exchange made at Pekin. In relation both to China and Japan, some changes are desirable in our present method of consular jurisdiction. The balance of the indemnity funds heretofore obtained from China and Japan, should also be returned without delay.

On financial and fiscal matters the President coincides in the main with the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury, whose report he epitomizes. The provision for the coinage of a fixed amount of silver dollars monthly may well be repealed, so that hereafter only so much be coined as shall be necessary to supply the demand. The silver certificates should also be retired and the act providing for their issue repealed. The success of the refunding operations, by which 5 and 6 per cent. bonds were extended at a lower rate of interest, has been perfect, and no legislation with regard to these bonds is desirable. The prosperity of the business of the country has been so great as to yield a large surplus of income to the government, so that it is estimated that, even if the annual receipts and expenditures should continue as at present, the entire debt could be paid in ten years. In view, however, of the heavy load of taxation which our people have already borne, we may well consider whether it is not the part of wisdom to reduce the revenues, even if we delay a little the payment of the debt; with this view, the abolition of all internal revenue taxes is recommended, except those upon tobacco in its various forms, and upon distilled spirits and fermented liquors, and except, also, the special tax upon the manufacturers of and dealers in such articles. The law imposing a stamp tax upon matches, proprietary articles, playing cards, checks and drafts, may, with propriety, be repealed, and the law, also, by which banks and bankers are assessed upon their capital and deposits. There seems to be a general sentiment in favor of this course. In the present condition of our revenues, the tax upon deposits is especially unjust. It was never imposed in this country until it was demanded by the necessities of war, and was never exacted, in any other country, even in its greatest exigencies. The tariff laws, also, need careful revision, and if this can not be made at this session of Congress, a commission should be created to take the whole subject into consideration and suggest practical measures.

The increase of the number of enlisted men in the army to 30,000, the maximum now permitted by law, should be made at once, in order to maintain quietness on our ever shifting frontier, to preserve peace, and suppress disorder and marauding in new settlements, to protect settlers and their property against Indians, and Indians against the encroachments of intruders, and to enable peaceful immigrants to establish homes in the most remote parts of our country.

With regard to the Navy, he calls particular attention to the report of the advisory board, and declares that it is not possible for him to urge too strongly his conviction that every consideration of national safety, economy and honor imperatively demands a thorough rehabilitation of our navy. He recognizes the fact that it would involve a large expenditure of public moneys, but such expenditure ought not to stand in the way of a matter so essential to our common defence. Although we are at peace with all the world, and hope to continue so, still if we read the teachings of history, we shall not forget that in the life of every nation emergencies may arise, when a resort to arms can alone save it from dishonor. No danger from abroad now threatens this people, nor have we any cause to distrust the friendly professions of other governments. But, for avoiding as well as repelling danger that may threaten us in the future, we must be prepared to enforce any means which we think wise to adopt. We must be ready to defend our harbors against aggression, to protect, by distribution of our ships of war over the highways of commerce, the varied interests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our citizens abroad, to maintain everywhere the honor of our flag and the distinguished position which we may rightfully claim among the nations of the world.

No especial recommendations are made with regard to the post-office department. In alluding to the star route frauds, the President says he has enjoined upon the officials and counsel who are charged with the conduct of the cases for the government, the duty of prosecution with the utmost rigor of the law all persons who may be found chargeable with frauds upon the postal service.

The Indian question is discussed at some length; the errors of the old policy of dealing with the various Indian tribes as if they were separate nations, are pointed out, and the new system is recommended, of introducing among them the customs and pursuits of civilized life, and gradually absorbing them into the mass of our citizens; for the success of this system, legislation will be necessary; first the passage of an act making the various States and Territories applicable to the Indian reservation within their borders. The Indian should receive the protection of the law. He should be allowed to maintain in court his rights of person and property. He has repeatedly begged for this privilege. Its exercise would be very valuable to him in his progress toward civilization. Second, and more important, is the enactment of a general law permitting the allotment, in severalty, to the Indians, of a reasonable quantity of land, which should be temporarily inalienable; this would break up the tribal bond which is so prominent a feature of savage life, and which tends so strongly to perpetuate it. Third, the schools for the education of the Indians should be liberally supported.

The Mormon question is briefly considered, and Congress is urged to take immediate measures, by legislation, to stop the spread of polygamy, and to suppress it where it now exists.

Upon the subject of National aid to education at the South, he says that although our system of government does not contemplate this as one of the functions of the national government, still no measures calculated to promote that general intelligence and virtue upon which the perpetuity of our institutions so greatly depend, have ever been regarded with indifference by Congress or the executive. He suggests that if any funds be devoted to educational purposes, they be distributed in the different States in the ratio of their illiteracy.

"Civil service reform" is treated very fully, and with much frankness. The President refers to the letter which he wrote accepting the nomination to the Vice-Presidency, as perfectly expressing his views upon the subject, and they will govern his administration of the Presidential office. He does not put great faith in the system of competitive examinations except for the lowest grades of the service, nor would any rigid rule of promotion by seniority in service be found always possible. The evils of the present system cannot be eradicated at once, and the growth of a new one must be the work of years.

The importance of timely legislation with respect to the ascertainment and declaration of the votes for presidential electors was sharply called to the attention of the people more than four years ago. It is to be hoped that some well-defined measure may be devised before another National election, which will render unnecessary a resort to any expedient of a temporary character for the determination of questions upon contested returns. Congress also should at once legislate on the question of Presidential inability, which has recently been brought so forcibly to the attention of the country, in such a manner that all differences of opinion on the question, should be set at rest.

Such is a brief outline of the Message which has been looked for with so much anxiety by people of all parties, and which, taken as a whole, we are confident will produce a good impression throughout the country, by its general temperate and candid method of dealing with public affairs.

VERMONT DAIRYMENS' ASSOCIATION.—Mr. O. S. Bliss writes us that the Vermont Dairymen's Association will hold its annual meeting this winter at Rutland, January 18 and 21. Rutland is a convenient point to reach by railroad, and its hotel accommodations are excellent. Very good meetings have been held there in the past, and it is hoped that the meeting of 1882 will be equal to any that have preceded it.

THE "Golden Bloom of Youth" may be retained by using Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," a specific for "female complaints." By druggists.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ The decrease of the public debt in November was $7,349,126.29.

☞ Some Chicago grain operators declare that wheat will sell for $2 a bushel in that city by the middle of January.

☞ Strawberries of good size and flavor, grown in the open air, in Somerset Co., Md., were sent to the Baltimore market last week.

☞ Dandelion blossoms were gathered in the outskirts of Portsmouth, N. H., on the 30th ult.

☞ An attempt was made on Saturday evening to blow up the city court house in Montreal by means of dynamite.

☞ This year's cotton crop will be less than that of 1880 by a million and a half bales.

☞ The sum of $15,000 has been subscribed in Burlington towards the Champlain Valley Fair project.

☞ The stockholders of the Keeley Motor Company have taken their grievances against the alleged inventor into court.

☞ The extensive saw-mill buildings of E. N. Spaulding at Roxbury, Vt., were burned last Friday night. The damage will be $12,000 to $15,000.

☞ An old oil well at Titusville, Penn., which in former years produced five barrels per day, has been drilled sixty feet deeper, and now flows 400 barrels per day.

☞ The estimates of the Florida orange crop vary widely. Col. Elliott of Jacksonville puts the number at 45,000,000, while the *Palatka Journal* says it will reach 84,000,000.

☞ The discontinuance of the Navy Yard at Boston, and the sale of the property for railroad termini, will be proposed in Congress during the coming session.

☞ During the last forty years one hundred and twenty missionaries have fallen victims to the climate of the West Coast of Africa; but the converts to Christianity number over thirty thousand.

☞ David Leavitt of Agawam, about 25, was found dead in his carriage, near Feeding hills, last Friday morning, shot in the back of the head. Circumstances indicate murder for money.

☞ The house, barn, out buildings and soap works belonging to J. F. Torry of Sharon, Mass., were burned Saturday evening. Part of the furniture was saved, badly damaged.

☞ The Cincinnati *Price Current* estimates that the number of hogs packed in the entire West for the next twelve months, will be at the least 1,000,000 short of that for the twelve months last year.

☞ The Dominican Fathers are establishing themselves at Lewiston, Me., as their headquarters. They have purchased land for $20,000 and propose to erect an elegant building for their schools.

☞ By a collision on the New York and New England Railroad at Thompson, Conn., Saturday afternoon, Engineer Clark and Conductor Harrington were killed and a dozen people more or less injured.

☞ A Florida company has been so successful in making paper from palmetto that it is said twenty mills will be erected in sections of the State where palmetto trees are abundant.

☞ Western newspapers say that Thanksgiving Day was never before so heartily observed in that section as this year, and that the holiday is growing in popular favor yearly.

☞ The farmers of Southern New Jersey are engaged in the raising of sorghum and the manufacture of sugar. The State pays a bounty of one dollar per ton to farmers who raise sugar cane, and one thousand dollars was thus paid out last month.

☞ The barns of Maxwell Bros., on their Bennett farm, near Geneva, N. Y., were burned a few days ago, with 50 head of Holstein cattle, 5 horses, 50 hogs and a large quantity of hay, etc. Loss, $40,000 to $50,000.

☞ Daniel H. Eels, a Cleveland Bank President, was robbed of $117,000 worth of railway bonds on Saturday by a gentle stranger who called at his private office, and abstracted the bonds while Mr. Eels attention was temporarily averted.

☞ The scythe and axe shops of Hubbard & Blake Manufacturing Company at West Waterville, Me., were destroyed by fire last week. Part of the hammer shop, the office and storehouse were saved. The loss is estimated at $25,000.

☞ Minneapolis was visited before sunrise on Sunday last by a disastrous fire, which destroyed four large flour mills and one cotton mill, and caused the death of at least four men. Massachusetts parties are heavy losers. The aggregate loss is in excess of half a million.

☞ Schooner Edward E. Webster, Capt. Solomon Jacobs, of Gloucester, is high line of the mackerel fleet of that port, having landed 4500 barrels of mackerel this season, making a net stock of $24,270. Her gross stock was $26,570. This is the largest stock ever made in the mackerel fisheries.

☞ A dispatch from Japan states that the deadlock in the silk trade has been removed by the practical submission of the American and European merchants to Japanese demands. Five million dollars' worth of silk held by the Japanese for six weeks has now been disposed of and is on the way to western markets.

☞ The Spaulding mills at Northfield, Vt., were burned on Saturday night with all the lumber in and about the buildings. The fire caught from the engine. The mills were doing a large business and their sawing, planing, matching and trimming machinery was valuable and extensive. Mr. Spaulding estimates the loss at $10,000 with no insurance.

☞ Efforts are being made by sportsmen of western Massachusetts to increase and multiply feathered game in that section. A year ago wild rice was planted with success, and a small stock of quails was imported and let loose. This year the sportsmen of Springfield are planting wild celery on the rivers and ponds for the quails to feed upon, and it is intended to restock the neighborhood of Springfield further by the addition of 500 quail, the first lot of 50 having already been received for that purpose.

KIDNEY DISEASES.—Kidney diseases afflict the greater part of the human race, and they are constantly on the increase, but where the virtues of Kidney-Wort have become known, they are held in check and speedily cured. Let those who have had to constantly dose spirits of nitre and such stuff, give this great remedy a trial and be cured. In the dry form it is most economical, in the liquid the most convenient.—*Phila. Press.*

The Markets.

BOSTON PRODUCE MARKET.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 7, 1881.

The produce market shows few changes in prices, but there is a fair amount of business doing and a firm tone in most departments.

Butter.—Receipts of the week 8816 pkgs and 1168 bxs. There is a very firm feeling in the market, and a generally active business. The supply, especially of choice grades has been very light all the season, but the export trade having fallen off very materially, there still remains in this market a fair supply of the medium grades, which are now attracting more attention from purchasers. We quote choice freshly made creameries at 30@32c ₩ lb. Choice New York and Vermont dairies are selling at 28@30c; fair to good do at 24@28c; Western dairies at 22@26c, and common and inferior at 16@22c ₩ lb.

Cheese.—Receipts of the week 3896 boxes and 14 bbls. The market remains steady, with a fair amount of business, and prices firmly held. We quote prime factory at 12¾@13c ₩ lb, and fair to good do at 10@12c, with a long range of downward for inferior and summer goods.

Little Falls, N. Y., Dec. 5.—Cheese—Sales to-day of 2000 boxes factory at 11¾@12c, and 450 boxes of farm dairy cheese at 8@12½c. Butter—Sales

New England Farmer,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY

DARLING & KEITH,

34 Merchants Row, Boston, Mass.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements 1st insertion, 12 cts. per line.
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The following gentlemen, who authorized Agents for the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, will canvass for subscribers and collections in the following Counties in New England:—

N. ..... WORCESTER Co., Ms.
MAX ROBBINS, ... ORANGE Co., Vt.
C. CHEEVER, ... RUTLAND Co., Vt.
A. B. WINGATE, ... GRAFTON Co., N. H.
ISAIAH BARNES, ... FRANKLIN Co., Ms.
GILMAN BLODGETT, ... CHESHIRE Co., N. H.

Subscribers are requested to forward their subscription almost monthly for the Agent to call. The date on the label will always show how far they have paid.

Farmers' Directory.

The Farmers whose cards appear in this column are the best and most reliable in the country.

C. C. CHAMBERLIN & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
AND DEALERS IN
BUTTER, EGGS, CHEESE AND LARD,
Nos. 79 & 81 Faneuil Hall Market,
BOSTON.

INSURANCE.

Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
SITUATED JANUARY 1, 1881, $425,047.21
Cash Premiums last year, ... $234,513.48
Cash Receipts for Interest, ... 28,415.06
Total Income last year, ... 262,922.32
Cash Liabilities, $100,533.73
Risks Expiring Policy: 50 per cent. on 3 years, and 33 1/3 per cent. on 1 year.
W. MUNROE, Pres't and Treas.
A. BOLLARD, Sec'y. 17

General Intelligence.

PERSONAL.

Secretary Blaine has received a cable dispatch from Baron Von Steuben, which says he has become the father of a son, born on Friday, "Blaine Steuben."

It is said that the neighbors of President Garfield at Mentor who were chosen by a local appraiser as to their personal property estimate that he was not poor in this world's goods. The personal property, including the house and grounds, cattle, insurance, etc., amounts to about $100,000.

The picture of Gen. Garfield for Queen Victoria's album has been forwarded through the State Department on Monday. It is of small size, and is described as bearing a striking resemblance to the late President, the eyes particularly being life-like and expressive. The photograph was inclosed in an envelope bordered with mourning, addressed to Queen Victoria, and having the name of Mrs. Garfield written on the lower corner. It was inclosed in a box lined with dark blue satin velvet, which was again inclosed in a mahogany box.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.—The Essex County Agricultural Society will hold an Institute at the Town Hall, Peabody, Mass., on Wednesday next, the 14th inst., at nine o'clock A. M. The subject in the forenoon will be, "Farmers' Institutes: their objects and the methods of conducting them," opened by Mr. O. S. Poore. In the afternoon Mr. James J. H. Gregory will tell about the "The Culture of Potatoes." The meetings and discussions are open to the public, and a general invitation to all interested is extended by the Society, which emphasizes its hospitality by offering to provide free return tickets to all points on the Eastern Railroad.

MIDDLESEX SOUTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold its annual business meeting of the Middlesex South Agricultural Society was held on Monday in the Framingham town hall, President William G. Lewis in the chair. The debt question came up for discussion, and occupied much of the time of the meeting. The report of the treasurer showed that the debt of the association is $2,000, with interest, the Framingham Savings Bank holding two notes against it; $275 of the interest was paid the present year. John Johnson of Framingham was chosen a committee to solicit subscriptions to reduce the debt. President Lewis offered $1000, provided the society would liquidate the entire debt, and other members offered to give $50 each to help pay the interest account. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, William G. Lewis of Framingham; vice-presidents, Samuel B. Bird of Framingham and A. F. Stevens of Natick; secretary, Charles H. Hemenway of Framingham; treasurer, Charles J. Frost of Framingham.

THE APPLE MARKET.—One of the curiosities of the market, is that there is to-day a greater supply of apples in store to-day in this city than there was a year ago, although this is the "off year," while the crop last year was the greatest ever known. The reason for this is found in the fact that the country districts have been almost entirely cleared of their crops this season, while last year the prices were so small that it did not pay to bring any but the best fruit to market. The receipts here during the month of November were about 175,000 barrels against 193,327 in the same month last year. Prices in Liverpool, however, are now so low that there is very little margin for profit in exporting apples to England, and while last year about 500,000 barrels were exported in November, the figures this year will scarcely reach one-fifth of that number. It is hardly probable that prices in England will go much higher, the native crop being fairly large in that country, but as there are very few apples now left in the producing districts here, the supply now in store will all be wanted before Spring, and there is no prospect of a serious decline in prices, except perhaps for the poorer qualities.

OUR PROGRESS.

As stages are quickly abandoned with the completion of railroads, so the huge, drastic, cathartic pills, composed of crude and bulky medicines, are now fast being abandoned with the introduction of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant and Effective Pellets,® which are concentrated, and little larger than mustard seeds, are composed of highly concentrated vegetable extracts. By druggists.

CATTLE TRANSPORTATION.—A "Cattle and Stock Express Company, Limited," is being formed, with a capital of $100,000 to facilitate the transportation of cattle from Chicago eastward, by the use of a new anti-friction box for the car-wheels, which will enable trains to be run at a much greater speed than at present, and thus save the delay of a long journey, and the consequent shrinkage of the weight of the animals. Prominent stockmen say that if cattle can be landed at this market on the next day after leaving Chicago, the saving in shrinkage will more than compensate for any possible increase in the cost of transportation. The prospectus of the Company shows that when $100,000 is subscribed the directors are authorized to call in 25 per cent of this amount and equip a train; and no further amounts can be called for until this first amount has been put in practical use.

GARGET in cattle is one of the greatest and most persistent foes which the dairyman has to encounter. Its nature and treatment are not so well understood as they should be, and the remedies in use among farmers are mostly empirical and irrational. "Wallingford's Garget Cure," advertised in another column by Messrs. W. W. Whipple & Co., of Portland, Me., being a scientifically compounded remedy, which has been spoken of in the highest terms by those who have tested its merits, deserves a faithful trial by those who are unfortunate enough to have need of something of the kind for their animals.

PURE BLOOD.—Upon the strength and purity of the blood, depends the health and vigor of the whole system. Persons who know how to preserve their health are taking Wetherell's Sarsaparilla, and pronounce it the best medicine they ever used. See their testimonials in another column. For sale by all druggists.

WOMEN are everywhere using and recommending Parker's Ginger Tonic, because they have learned from experience that it speedily overcomes despondency, indigestion, pain or weakness in the back and kidneys, and other troubles peculiar to the sex.—*Home Journal.* See adv.

THE DAIRY CONVENTION.

The second day's session of the Convention of the National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, opened with a spirited discussion of the oleomargarine question, introduced by a paper from Mr. G. P. Englehard of the Chicago *Grocers' Bulletin*. He maintained that the falling off of nearly fifty per cent in our exports of dairy products during the past six months, as compared with the corresponding period last year, was almost wholly due to the adulteration of those products, which had now progressed so far as to threaten the entire destruction of our foreign trade in these products. Mr. Simpson of Boston thought an effort should be made against all food adulteration, and manufacturers and sellers should be obliged to mark their goods truthfully. Mr. Dexter of Chicago did not believe in the wholesale denunciation of manufacturers of oleomargarine, etc.; the product was of genuine value, and if sold on its own merits was unobjectionable; he advocated the imposition of a revenue tax upon the manufacture. At the close of the discussion a resolution was passed, declaring it to be the sense of the Convention that laws should be passed by the State Legislatures, prohibiting the manufacture of butterine, and all other adulterations of butter and cheese. A committee of thirteen was also chosen to prepare a bill, embodying the requisite provisions, to be presented to Congress, and to the various State Legislatures, for enactment, and a subscription, to the amount of $500, was made, to pay the expenses of the work.

The third day's proceedings opened with a discussion of the causes of bitterness in butter, a subject which excited a wide diversity of opinion, with no very definite result, so a committee of experts was appointed to investigate the subject and report next year. Col T. D. Curtis of Syracuse, N. Y., read an excellent and exhaustive address on "Needs of the Western Dairy." There is a growing tendency in the Northwest, to abandon the cultivation of wheat and take up dairying; the first need is good stock, which he advised intending dairymen to breed for themselves, rather than to buy from the older dairy districts. It is possible to begin in a small, but sure way, and, in a few years, to develop a dairy herd of superior excellence. The subject of breeding dairy stock was next discussed at length, and the practice of "in-breeding" was thoroughly commended. In closing, he urged the necessity of furnishing better shelter for stock in the cold months, and recommended that hay be secured earlier in the season than is now customary in the northwestern dairy regions.

Later in the day the prizes on butter and cheese were awarded, all the former going, as was inevitable, to Iowa exhibitors, who furnished by far the greater part of the display. The following are the premium awards was followed by a sale of the prize butter and cheese in the exhibition hall, at which there were several large transactions; good prices were offered, the butter which took the sweepstakes prize, (made by Hartman & Sanford of Amboy, Iowa,) bringing 61 cents per pound.

Friday, the closing day of the convention, was principally occupied with routine business, appointment of committees, election of officers, &c. The Hon. Austin Belknap of Boston and Col. R. M. Littler of Davenport, Iowa, being unanimously re-elected, respectively President and Secretary. After some discussion it was voted to hold the next annual convention at Madison, Wis., to open on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving of next year and continue for four days. Votes of thanks were passed to the citizens of Cedar Rapids and to the different railroads for courtesies extended, and to the president and secretary of the association for the efficient service in their respective positions. In the evening the Hon. George B. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture, delivered an address on "The American Dairy." After speaking of the immense magnitude of the cattle interests of the country as shown by the returns of the recent census, he entered more particularly upon the consideration of the great advance which the dairy business had made in the Northwest during the past ten years. It was a great surprise, received at first with incredulity and distrust, when at the centennial exposition, the palm for butter was awarded to Iowa; but it was not accident. In Iowa, in Illinois, in Wisconsin, creameries came into life, acquired prestige and commanded prices ever above the rates for the standard goods of popular eastern establishments. Only the fancy brands, the products of a few dairies which command extraordinary prices from wealthy and fastidious purchasers, bear higher prices than the best butter of the Northwest, and few creameries readily obtain today from two to four cents more than eastern dairies of a high grade. Ten years ago there were more than 3,000,000 milch cows in the 10 States of the Ohio valley and the trans-Mississippi. Since then there has been in the same territory an increase of more than 2,000,000 cows, but comparison of numbers of feet shows the advance in the production of butter and cheese. The best milking breeds have been introduced. Selections have resulted in great improvement, and the milk yield has greatly advanced, while the animals receive better care, and skill and science have been invoked in the manufacture. In many districts, a new industry has been created in a single decade. In all great improvements in the quality of milk, quality of product and profit in marketing has resulted. There has been an advance of the dairy interest in all sections of the country, but the enlargement in the West has been more than double that of the East, and, in volume, vastly greater than the improvement at the South. In 1880 Massachusetts produced 6,559,161 pounds of butter, 2,265,875 pounds of cheese and 15,254,057 gallons of milk, being exceeded in the product only by New York and Ohio.

With regard to the selection of breeds of cattle, the speaker said that in general terms, the best animal for a man to keep, is one that best suits his farm. The dairymen will regard the quantity of milk, the quality, its value in production of butter and cheese, the time the cow continues in milk, the character of the breed for quietness or as being good nurses, the predisposition to garget or other disease, or dropping after calving, the natural tendency to turn every thing to nutriment, the ease with which she is fattened when given up as a milker, and the proportion of food requisite to keep her in full milk or to fatten her when dry. The grazer will consider the kind of animal most in demand in his neighborhood, the early maturity, the quickness of fattening at any age, the quality of the meat, the parts on which the flesh and fat are particularly laid, and more than all, the hardihood and the adaptation to soil and climate. There is one fact, however, which is too apt to be overlooked, and that is the necessity of good keeping, which is almost as essential as carefulness in breeding.

Animals brought from a better to a poorer soil, will deteriorate very rapidly, and to a very great extent, if neglected. But there has been a steady improvement going on in the breeding of dairy stock, and there is room for yet more. An increase of one quart of milk per day to each cow in the State of Iowa, would add 100,000 pounds a year to the butter product. The farms also could easily be made to support a largely increased number of cows, and the dairy interest can be made to take a much more important position even than it now occupies. The manufacturer knows that a very slight increase per hour in the product of his mill, or the gaining of but a fraction of a cent per yard on his cloth, will often constitute his profit; so of the farmer, a small addition to each item of a large aggregate of his crops will necessarily yield him a large reward.

The protection of the market against adulterations is also an important matter, but the strongest protection against fraud is an ample supply of a reliable product. The occupation of the home and foreign markets is a matter worthy of your ambition, but we must go first to the cows for the power to supply the market.

Commissioner Loring's speech, which was delivered with his customary dignity of manner and eloquent forcefulness of expression, was frequently interrupted by applause, and at the close he was tendered a vote of thanks. The convention then, at a few minutes before nine o'clock, dissolved.

A CARD.

During the next 6 months there will be a large number of people out of employment on account of the drought; in some parts of the country there is a great deal of suffering. There are plenty of men and women in this county, who, if some friend would put them in the way of earning two or three hundred dollars during the winter months, would be grateful for a lifetime. A large Manufacturing Company in New York are now preparing to start persons of either sex in a new business. The business is honorable and legitimate (no peddling or book canvassing,) $50 per month and expenses paid. So, if you are out of employment send your name and address at once to The Wallace Co., 60 Warren St., New York.

The Household and Farm in its issue of October says, "The offer made by this Company (who are one of the most reliable in this city) is the best ever made to the unemployed."

The Wallace Co., make a special offer to readers of this paper who will write them at once, and who can give good references.

VEGETINE does not deceive invalids into false hopes by purging and creating a fictitious appetite, but assists nature in clearing and purifying the whole system, leading the patient gradually to perfect health.

The World Abroad.

SUMMARY OF LATEST FOREIGN DISPATCHES.

Great Britain.

As far as Irish affairs are concerned, there is still the same old story to tell, of evictions and the discharge of laborers on the one side, and of boycotting, intimidation and threats on the other, with many acts of violence and outrage; and, behind all, a government apparently bewildered by the magnitude of the difficulty with which it has to deal. Virtually, a whole people is in rebellion, but without armed forces or organizations which can be proceeded against by military power, while, at the same time, the ordinary processes of civil law are unable to reach them. Refusal either to pay rent or to apply to the Land Courts, is now becoming very general in some parts of the country, and the only recourse for the landlords is to evict the tenants, a process not easy to accomplish at any time, and now more than ever attended with difficulties. Violence appears to be more directed against individuals who have paid their rent, and are trying to get along peaceably, than against the landlords, and even this violence is, for the most part, of the meanest and most cowardly kind, as will be seen by a few samples of the outrages reported. An entire flock of sheep on the estate of Lord Donerailе were beaten to death with clubs, by unknown parties. Three tenants on Lord Kenmare's estate, in County Cork, were fired at and wounded by a party of armed men. The tenants had paid their rents. Three cows belonging to a rent paying farmer near Fearns, County Cork, were found ripped open. Two hundred cattle on a grazing farm in County Roscommon have been mutilated. A farmer in Leitrim, who had paid his rent, was shot on the highway, receiving twelve wounds. A farmer named Milligan, who lately paid his rent, was waylaid and beaten to death near Shannon bridge, while returning from market on Saturday. No arrests have been made.

These are only a small part of the many similar cases that have been reported during the past week. As a matter of course, this state of affairs creates great uneasiness, and even alarm in England, and the inadequacy of the laws to meet the emergency is almost universally acknowledged. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says, in discussing the question, "We may have to wait three years before the beginning of the subsidence of the present ferment. We should prepare our minds and shape our policy accordingly."

Not only in Ireland, but in England and Scotland as well, is the relation of landlord and tenant becoming the great social question of the day. On Friday last an immense meeting took place at Aberdeen, at which two thousand delegates, representing 40,000 farmers were present. Several Scotch members of Parliament attended. Resolutions were passed, demanding a general reduction of rents, compensation for improvements, the abolition of the law of entail and also after leighs in the interest of tenant farmers. It was urged that the legislative changes required must apply to existing leases. A farmers' alliance for Scotland was formed.

It is proposed to form an international agreement providing remedies for the present unsatisfactory condition of the laws relating to ocean telegraph cables; some of these cables have been broken by fishermen in the pursuit of their regular occupations, and it appears that in the present state of international law, there is no redress for or means of prevention of such offences or injury to cables, even if purposely committed.

The theft of the body of A. T. Stewart in New York, has been exactly paralleled in the theft of the body of the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, which was stolen from its tomb in Aberdeen some months ago, presumably by persons who hoped to get money from the late Earl's relatives for its return.

France.

Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, U. S. Minister to Spain, in passing through Paris, paid separate visits to President Grevy and M. Gambetta, both of whom received him with great cordiality and congratulated him upon the part he took in the events leading to the abolition of slavery in the United States. They also dwelt upon the sympathies of France for the United States, and said they hoped to see the friendly relations between the two sister republics drawn still closer.

M. Rouvier, minister of commerce, has declared his readiness to withdraw M. Tirard's decree concerning American pork, if the Americans would institute a trustworthy system of inspection. He has also expressed himself in favor of the appointment of commissioners to negotiate a commercial treaty with the United States.

The British government has decided that it is no longer necessary to retain a man-of-war in Tunisian waters, and her Majesty's ship employed there since the French occupation of Tunis has been ordered to withdraw. The French military operations in Tunis are to be vigorously prosecuted, and the occupation of the country maintained, but such occupation is not to be pushed too near to the frontiers of Tripoli, for fear of possible European complications.

Germany.

The Emperor William, when receiving the president and vice president of the Reichstag on Sunday, emphatically declared that his message read at the opening of the Reichstag was the fullest expression of his innermost convictions as to the welfare of the nation. The Kreus Zeitung says that at the reception the Emperor remarked that it was the duty of all destrous of supporting the monarchial principles to pursue the ends indicated in the imperial message.

Prince Bismarck, replying to an address from the Zeitz Patriotic Society, expressed approval of his policy and said: "I firmly believe in the ultimate victory of the plans I have put forward, but I have little hope myself of seeing the success of the proposed reforms."

General Items.

The persecution of the Jews has broken out again in Russia, and a general renewal of the agitation is feared.

Bishops are arriving daily in Rome to be present at the approaching canonization. The *Liberta* says there is reason to believe that at the ceremony itself the Pope will pronounce an allocution affirming the necessity of temporal power.

A St. Petersburg despatch says the Chinese intend to extensively fortify the eastern frontier of Kuldja when they occupy that district next spring, and to transfer 8000 families from Kashgaria to replace those who emigrated to Russia. There have been two Mussulman revolts during the last four months against the Chinese garrison at Yangi-Hissar. Two hundred Chinese were massacred, and 400 rebels were subsequently beheaded.

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"From a feeling of gratitude and a desire to benefit others in a like situation, I voluntarily give my experience with the Compound Oxygen Treatment. When I began it I had for more than a year been suffering from nervous prostration; for I belong to a class which increases yearly, viz., overworked school-girls. My general improvement for nearly two months after I began the Home Treatment was scarcely perceptible, but at the end of that time I began to improve, and now, after eleven months have passed, I can safely say that I have been cured. I sleep and eat well, and am generally in possession of a good appetite, while headaches and backaches are quite unheard of. My throat is cured, and my voice is stronger than ever before. I surprise my friends by my greatly increased physical strength, the fact that I have induced several friends to try this Treatment is an evidence of my faith in its curative power." Our Treatise on Compound Oxygen, containing large reports of cases and full information, *sent free*. Drs. Starkey & Palen, 1109 and 1111 Girard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, Nov. 27, by Rev. J. O. Knowles, D. D., Bion H. Peterson to Miss Cornelia A. Reynolds.

In Charlestown, Dec. 1, Calvin P. Sampson to Annie M., daughter of the Hon. Timothy T. Sawyer.

In Allston, Nov. 30, by Rev. F. E. Tower, Geo ge F. Taft of Boston to Jennie S. Farrington of Allston.

In Somerville, Nov. 30, by Rev. A. E. Winship, Henry E. Cheney of Bethlehem, N. H., to Betsey D. Lovejoy of Somerville.

In Waltham, Nov. 23, by Rev. I. H. Packard, Frank B. Whitcomb to Ruth H. Burns, both of Waltham.

In Everett, Nov. 30, by Rev. W. H. Holster, Mr. Clarence M. Shaw of Bridgewater to Miss Ada M. Bassett.

In Newton Centre, Nov. 29, by Rev. O. S. Stearns, D. D., Albert H. Kendall to Annie B. Stearns, daughter of the officiating clergyman.

In Wilcasset, Me., Dec. 4, by Rev. J. T. Crosby, Eben Fullerton of Woolwich to Frances E. Stinson of Wiscasset.

DIED.

In Boston, Nov. 30, Rev. Isaac Wethrell, 75 yrs.

Sherlock Spooner, 84 yrs. 1 mo.

In East Boston, Dec. 1, William Seavey, 91 yrs.

In South Boston, Dec. 1, Mrs. Elizabeth Beer, 86 yrs. 3 mos.

In Mattapan, Dec. 4, Abby Kellogg, widow of Calvin J. Pope, 91 yrs.

In Cambridge, Nov. 30, Mrs Mary P. Lawrence, 86 yrs. 11 mos. Dec 1, Charlotte, widow of Rev. Ralph Sanger, D. D., formerly of Dover, Mass., 89 yrs. 3 mos.

In Cambridgeport, Dec. 1, Persis D., widow of the late John Wilder, 66 yrs. 6 mos.

In Hingham, Dec. 1, Solomon Lincoln, 77 yrs. 9 mos.

In Natick, Nov. 22, Dr. Joseph Walker, 77 yrs. 6 mos.

In Norwood, Nov. 29, George Lee, 84 yrs. 10 mos.

In Woburn, Nov. 29, Martha H. P. Farley, 61 yrs.

In South Framingham, Dec. 1, Charles Knowlton, 71 yrs.

In Revere, Samuel Pratt, 88 yrs. 10 mos,

In Newtonville, Dec. 3, Mrs. Sukey G. McIntosh, formerly of Needham, 87 yrs. 10 mos.

In Newton Upper Falls, Dec. 3, George W. Keyes, 66 yrs. 7 mos.

In New Bedford, Dec. 1, Ivory Snow, 84 yrs.

In Quincy, Dec. 5, John Chartier, 76 yrs.

In Charlestown, Dec. 4, John Sanborn, 82 yrs. 9 mos.

In Chelsea, Dec. 4, Thos. T. Cushing, 79 yrs. 2 mos.

In Exeter, N. H., Dec. 2, Miss Harriet M. Gale, 71 yrs.

In Duxbury, Mass., Dec. 4, Nath. Ford, 84 yrs.

In Woburn, Dec. 3, Mrs. Betsey S. Parker, 81 yrs. 3 mos.

In Bridgewater, Mass., Dec. 3, Mrs. Mary A. Peck, widow of Albert H. Peck, 78 yrs.

In Wilton, Me., Dec. 3, Elizabeth W., wife of Samuel W. Spooner, 75 yrs.

In Wakefield, Dec. 7, Stephen Floyd, 77 yrs.

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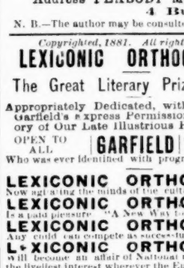

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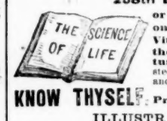
THE SCIENCE OF LIFE

Poetry.

From Punch.

THE STORY OF A STOWAWAY.

Come, my lad, and sit beside me; we have often talked before
Of the hurricane and tempest, and the storms on sea and shore;
When we read of deeds of daring, done for dear old England's sake,
We have cited Nelson's duty, and the enterprise of Drake;
Midst the fever'd din of battle, roll of drum, and scream of fife,
Heroes pass in long procession, calmly yielding up their life.
Pomps and pageants have their glory, in cathedral aisles are seen
Marble effigies; but seldom of the mercantile marine.
If your playmates love adventure, bid them gather round at school
While you tell them of a hero, Captain Strachan of Liverpool.

Spite of storm and stress of weather, in a gale that lash'd the land,
On the "Cyprian" screw steamer, there the Captain took his stand.
He was no fair-weather sailor, and he often made the boast
That the ocean safer sheltered than the wild Carnarvon coast.
He'd a good ship underneath him, and a crew of English form,
So he sailed from out the Mersey in the hurricane and storm.
All the luck was dead against him—with the tempest at its height,
Fires expired, and rudders parted, in the middle of the night
Sails were torn and rent asunder. Then he spoke with bated breath:
"Save yourselves, my gallant fellows! we are drifting to our death!"

Then they looked at one another, and they felt the awful shock,
When, with louder crash than tempest, they were dashed upon a rock.
All was over now, and hopeless; but across those miles of foam
They could hear the shouts of people, and could see the lights of home.
"All is over!" screamed the Captain. "You have an-we'ed duty's call.
Save yourselves! I cannot help you! God have mercy on us all!"
So they rushed about like madmen, seizing belt, and oar and rope—
For the sailor knows where life is, there's the faintest ray of hope—
Then, amidst the wild confusion, at the dreaded dawn of day,
From the hold of that doomed vessel crept a wretched Stowaway!

Who shall tell the saddened story of this miserable lad?
Was it wild adventure stirred him, was he going to the bad?
Was he thief, or bully's victim, or a runaway from school,
When he stole that fatal passage from the port of Liverpool?
No one looked at him, or kicked him, 'midst the paralyzing roar,
All alone he felt the danger, and he saw the distant shore.
Over went the gallant fellows, when the ship was breaking fast,
And the Captain with his lifebelt—he prepared to follow last;
But he saw a boy neglected, with a face of ashy gray.
"Who are you?" roared out the Captain. "I'm the boy what stow'd away!"

There was scarce another second left to think what he could do,
For the fatal ship was sinking—Death was ready for the two.
So the Captain called the outcast—as he faced the tempest wild—
From his own waist took the lifebelt—and he bound it round the child!
"I can swim, my little fellow! Take the belt, and make for land.
Up, and save yourself!" The outcast humbly knelt to kiss his hand.
With the lifebelt round his body then the urchin cleared the ship;
Over went the gallant Captain, with a blessing on his lip.
But the hurricane howled louder than it ever howled before,
As the Captain and the Stowaway were making for the shore!

When you tell this gallant story to your playfellows at school,
They will ask you of the hero, Captain Strachan of Liverpool.
You must answer: They discovered, on the beach at break of day,
Safe—the battered, breathing body of the little Stowaway;
And they watched the waves of wreckage and they searched the cruel shore,
But the man who tried to save the little outcast—was no more.

* * * * * * *

When they speak of English heroes, tell this story where you can,
To the everlasting credit of the bravery of man.
Tell it out in tones of triumph, or with tears and quickened breath.
"Manhood's stronger far than storms, and Love is mightier than Death!"

The Story Teller.

From the New York Times.

A STORY OF TWO WARS.

Some years have elapsed since the incidents transpired that I am about to relate, and even the names of several of the individuals whose fortunes in life were more or less affected by them have entirely escaped my memory. Yet the facts themselves, in their strange and impenetrable connection, have come back to me a thousand times.

The class of '47, of which I was a member, graduated while the war with Mexico was at its fever heat. The last month of our stay at the academy was passed amid the excitement of battle bulletins that naturally produced a feeling of intense restlessness, and when the final moment arrived for us to

Doff the cadet and don the brevet,
And change the gray for the blue.

It was like a release of restive coursers eager for the race. We would all have gladly foregone the brief period allowed us for a visit to our homes, if we could have received our orders for the field at the same moment that our graduating diplomas were handed to us. But orders were not long delayed, and when they came each one set out with alacrity from his home, wherever it happened to be, for the general rendezvous at New Orleans, where shipping was provided for Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Stopping on my way at Barnum's Hotel, in Baltimore, I left orders on retiring to be called at 5 in the morning, for the purpose of taking the sea-board route, via the Carolinas and Mobile, to New Orleans. About 3 o'clock in the morning I was aroused by a loud knocking at my door, and the familiar voice of my friend and classmate, Burnside, who had arrived in the "owl" train. Seeing my name on the books, and learning that I was to be called for the southern line, he came at once to my room to beg me to take the western route, by way of the Ohio and Mississippi, with him. Of course, the inducement of companionship on a journey, then twice as long as it is now was not a slight one, and I found no difficulty in persuading myself to adopt it. The western route included a journey in a stage-coach over the Alleghanies, as the famous Baltimore and Ohio road had not at that time astonished the world by its feats of engineering.

Leaving Baltimore in the morning, we went by rail as far as Chambersburg, where the stage-coaches took up the journey, and the ascent of the mountain began. The coach was nearly full, the back seats being occupied by two Sisters of Charity on the way from the Maison Mere, in Paris, to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, in St. Louis. The front seat had some western jewelers, who were returning from the east, where they had been to make purchases, while my companion and myself had the outside places of the middle seat. Any one who made that journey in those days will remember the long and tedious ascent, the chilly mountain air at midnight, and the general cramped condition of the body that resulted from a full quota of passengers.

Burnside was a native of one of the western States, and had been something more of a traveller than myself. He showed his familiarity with the situation by causing himself to be strapped under the baggage cover on top of the coach for the purpose of getting a good nap on the way. The experiment was apparently a successful one until our drivers were changed at the 10 mile relay, when he found his somewhat peculiarly shaped head being punched for a supposed watermelon, by the new driver. At the next station he was still more unfortunate, as the succeeding driver threw a bag of curry-combs and brushes on his head, which induced him to beat a precipitate retreat to the inside of the coach, satisfied to take his chance for naps with the rest of the passengers. My drowsy head had been pretty well bruised against the side of the coach, when at length I fell into a comfortable doze, that was accounted for when I awoke, by finding that the good Sister sitting behind me, had, with characteristic tenderness of heart, been holding her soft silk reticule against the side of the coach where my head rested, and thus induced a really refreshing sleep. Her companion had been doing the same kind office for Burnside. None of us imagined how soon these purely disinterested acts were to meet with a return from us under peculiar circumstances.

On the evening of the second day, we arrived at Wheeling, where we were to take a small stern-wheel steam-boat, to be exchanged for a more commodious one at Pittsburg. It was quite dark when we came to the high bluff on which the town is built, and looked down upon the confused mass of river craft collected at the bank below. It was my first sight of a western river and its accessories, and the impressions derived therefrom were far from exhilarating, but I soon learned to forget the crudeness of a progressive civilization in admiration for its wonderful vigor.

The wretched craft in which we embarked for Pittsburg was a revolting affair at the best, but Burnside had hinted to me that any outward expression of disapproval would be regarded as an assumption of airs, and I therefore restrained myself, in spite of the fact that all the passengers were compelled to perform their ablutions in one and the same old tin basin, and, in addition to this, use a towel in common, the color of which was the same as the muddy water provided for lavatory purposes. The change to a commodious side-wheel steamboat at Pittsburg was a grateful one, and we found ourselves very well cared for in every respect; but a new and, to many of the persons on board, a somewhat formidable source of annoyance presented itself immediately after we cast off from the wharf, in the shape of certain suspicious characters who appeared among the passengers. The western rivers at that time were infested by piratical gangs of the very worst description. So daring and so well organized had they become, that the officers of the boats regarded them with fear that almost amounted to terror. A number of these officers had forfeited their lives in their efforts to protect the passengers from the depredations of these villians. One of the most notorious leaders of these robber gangs was a certain Burt Mackey. He had been repeatedly arrested and several times tried for felony, but had always managed to escape punishment—probably from having some of his confederates on the jury. It was discovered, shortly after we started, that no less a personage than the redoubtable robber chief himself, with some four or five confederates, was on board, attracted by the presence of the western jewelers with their recent purchases. It had also been reported that our worthy Sisters of Charity were the custodians of a large sum of money for the convent.

A general feeling of consternation took place among the jewelers. One of them borrowed my revolver, which I had not yet loaded, and, in his nervous haste, put the balls in first, and, forgetting the powder, rammed them down so firmly that they had to be bored out afterward. One unlucky dealer in jewelry found that he had one of the suspicious strangers for a room-mate. The sisters were quite alarmed, and, when night came, were in great distress. Burnside and I were now afforded an opportunity to make a return for the delicate kindness they had shown to us in the stage-coach, and we volunteered to mount guard over their state-room, relieving each other every two hours during the night. The situation was an extremely novel one, and very strange seemed all the surrounding of this western craft, with its high-pressure puffings, the cyclopian operation on the lower deck, where the glare of the burning wood in the huge furnaces lit up the swarthy faces of the negro crew, and cast long shadows through the forests on the shore; the constant heaving of the lead, and cries of "quarter less twain" from the man with the line; the silence and loneliness of the upper cabin, broken by an occasional opening door and the protruding head of a nervous passenger, or the stealthy tread of two or more of the confederates meeting on the hurricane deck to consult over their baffled schemes. It was a curious situation, and one I have recalled many times in the years that have gone by, years in which probably many of my fellow-passengers have made their last journey, some of them doubtless, with the aid of a rope.

When I joined the other travelers in the cabin, after my morning nap, I could clearly see the marks of a restless night on nearly every face. Mackey and his confederates held no communication with each other during the day, as far as any one could observe. They passed one another as strangers, yet an indescribable look of freemasonry in crime was stamped upon all of them. Just before the boat landed at the wharf in Cincinnati, a sudden excitement sprang up that looked for a moment like the forerunner of a tragedy. One of the jewelers was to leave the boat at that place, and in anticipation of his doing so had taken his trunk of valuables from the clerk, in whose charge it had been placed, and carried it into his state-room. Coming out for a moment to see if the boat had reached the wharf, he found, in attempting to reenter his room that it was fastened on the inside. As it so happened that this was the room to which one of the suspicious travelers had also been assigned, and the conviction flashed at once upon the unfortunate jeweler that this fellow had entered the room, locked the door, and at that moment was ransacking his trunk of valuables. He raised an alarm that brought all the passengers to the forward cabin, where the room was situated; then, for the first time, Mackey and his gang came together by an instant impulse. They ranged themselves side by side without exchanging a word, and each had his hand at his side-pocket. Each face wore a look of desperate determination as they confronted the united gaze of all the other passengers. In the meanwhile the excited jeweler was calling out to the man inside to open the door or he would shoot. He then tried to burst it open, but failed. The captain and mate in authoritive tones demanded admittance, but there was no reply, and not a sound came from within. There was a moment of breathless suspense, broken by an exclamation from the clerk, who had arrived on the scene, that perhaps the drop had fallen over the latch and the door had thus become fastened on the inside. A piece of crooked wire that he procured soon demonstrated the truth of his suggestion, and the door was opened, to the inexpressible relief to every soul on board, for the whispered word had passed to lynch the supposed robber, and the confederates knew what might possibly happen to them. I was glad enough to see the nervous passenger go ashore; he was both a Jew and a jeweler, and his soul seemed to be more in his box than in his body. Stopping but a short time at Cincinnati we continued on our journey toward Louisville. The passengers had become quite friendly with each other by this time. Burt Mackey and his friends had been proper to leave the boat at the last landing, and the voyage was becoming quite pleasant. The good Sisters of Charity could not say too much in expressing their thanks, and they felt that the few crumbs they had cast upon the waters had come back to them very soon.

I have stated that Burnside was a westerner by birth, and not unfamiliar with the ways of the traveling public in that section of country of which the social life on a western steamboat is one of the features. These boats are a peculiar "institution" in the west, and are very unlike those seen in eastern waters. Being all flat on the bottom, the hull is, so far as space is concerned, the most insignificant part of the boat. The engines, boilers, and freight are on the huge lower deck. The smoke-stacks are in the forward part of the boat, leaving, for the upper cabin one long unbroken space. This is generally divided into a forward, middle, and after cabin, the former more exclusively for the masculine portion of the passengers, and the latter for the ladies, while the middle cabin is the dining saloon.

A trip to or from New Orleans and Louisville or Cincinnati made the passengers quite intimate, and a great deal of social gayety often grew out of it. In the forward cabin there is more or less card playing going on, and Burnside was readily induced to join in a friendly game. One of the passengers proposed to him a game of euchre, and accosting an apparent stranger, politely invited him also to join in the game. The three sat down, and soon became very much interested; small stakes were proposed, and Burnside, being generally the winner, cheerfully assented to a proposition to increase the stakes. When I retired, quite late in the evening, the game was at its height, and had become quite exciting, many people looking on with much interest. In the morning, however, Burnside informed me that he suspected himself to have been the victim of a sharpers, as they had led him on until he had lost every cent of money he had, and, in fact, was "dead broke." This was rather a startling announcement, when joined to the fact, that before leaving Baltimore, I had consented to act as paymaster for both of us in settling all bills, including the traveling expenses, with my own funds. I was just about to inform him that my exchequer was about exhausted, when he made to me the foregoing announcement. What to do for the remainder of the journey was the question. No money was to be had until we reached New Orleans, where the quartermaster would refund us our traveling expenses in the way of mileage; but how to get there was the problem, as neither of us had a picayune.

While discussing the situation, one of the passengers approached, and excusing himself for apparently intruding upon our private affairs, he frankly stated that, having watched the game the night before, and knowing the two individuals with whom Burnside was playing were river sharpers, he had been much pained at the result, and finally suggested that if we were in any way embarrassed by it that he would be most happy, on arriving at his home in Louisville, to furnish us with the requisite funds to pursue our journey. On landing at the wharf at Louisville he gave us his card and invited us to call upon him, when he would let us have what money we wanted.

We landed at Louisville, and after registering our names at the Galt House, sat down to discuss the matter. We were among utter strangers and in a very serious predicament, and we soon decided that there was nothing else for us to do but to seek out our newfound friend. Not being familiar with the city, we expected to find the residence indicated on the card in that portion which embraced the houses of the well-to-do people, as we took it for granted that wealth and liberality went together in this case. We therefore turned our steps in that direction, but not finding the street, we were obliged to make inquiries, and were directed to the business portion of the town, where, in a somewhat obscure locality, and over the door of a small variety shop, we found the name indicated on the card. Entering with some hesitation at the possible chance of a mistake, we were a little surprised at meeting our fellow-passenger, who was expecting us, and with a rare tact and delicacy, had computed our possible expenses and placed the amount in two envelopes.

The surroundings of this unpretending little store were sufficient to show us at a glance that the sum of money he handed us was not taken from a very large accumulation, and when he subsequently invited us into a small room at the rear, which was his home, and introducing us to his wife, who was as unpretending as himself, but bore a look of unmistakable refinement, begged us to stay and take tea with them, we could not refuse. An interesting little boy stood by the side of his mother, these three constituting all the family. After tea the wife went into the shop and selected from a little glass show-case two very pretty and commodious arrangements of brown morocco for thread, needles, buttons, &c., which she presented to us, begging us to take them with us to Mexico, where she was sure we would often find use for them. Each little compartment was amply supplied with whatever it was intended to contain, and I may here say that that they proved to be most serviceable and timely gifts.

We remained in Louisville nearly a week, as on the following day several of our classmates arrived, also on their way to the seat of war, and more were expected. The most cordial and hospitable attentions were lavished upon us by the people of that patriotic and refined community. I doubt if any society in the United States could be found at that time (and I presume it is the same at the present) to excel in social amenities and true hospitality that of the city of Louisville. There was apparently no limit to their kind feelings, and we left there bearing with us many pleasant recollections that time and events have left still fresh in the memory; but not all the elaborate entertainments that were made for us served to lessen in the slightest degree the pleasure afforded us at the modest tea-table in the little back room of our generous friend, and when in the years to come the remembrance of that simple repast was revived under the most singular circumstances, the picture of the little family was as vivid as if only days instead of years had gone by.

It was a lively addition that our party, now largely increased, made to the passengers of the New Orleans steamer, and it is difficult to refrain from dwelling on the thousand and one incidents, some amusing, some serious, that occurred before we reached the Crescent City. A trip on a Mississippi river steamboat would furnish at any time material for an interesting narrative to one who is fond of studying the varying phases of human nature that are invariably to be found there, but the motive of this sketch forbids the space that such details would occupy. So, also, must I omit the perhaps more interesting account of those historic events that circled around us in the Mexican campaign. Some of our number never returned; most of those who did pass through, fell in the bloodier conflict at home. Among them all, perhaps Burnside was the most conspicuous. Both he and I had turned from the profession of arms to the walks of civil life, and when the war broke out in sudden fury, we found ourselves each by a common impulse hurrying with a command to the defence of the national capital, he from Rhode Island, I from New York. We arrived at Washington simultaneously, and afterward, with separate expeditions, descended upon the southern coast. Nearly fifteen years had elapsed since the scenes and events of our trip on the western rivers, and their memory had been almost overshadowed by the more stirring incidents by which we were surrounded.

One night, or rather toward morning, about the same hour that Burnside aroused me from sleep so long ago at Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore, I was awakened by a loud knocking at the door of my head-quarters at Norfolk, Va., and the ever familiar voice was again heard calling me by name. He had learned in North Carolina, where he was in command, of the surrender of Norfolk, and with his staff he took a steamer and came to make me a visit. It was much gratified as surprised, and, arousing my military household, spent the rest of the early hours in entertaining our guests.

It was while talking over the past, so full of incident to both of us, that he suddenly asked if I remembered a Mrs. —— in Louisville. I did not recall the name and he went on to say that a short time before he had received a letter from a lady in Louisville, telling him that, her only son had enlisted in a loyal regiment; that he was in delicate health, but nothing could stay the ardor of his patriotism, and, notwithstanding the fact that he was hardly able physically to endure the privations of camp life, he had gone to the war and was at that time in one of the regiments of Burnside's command. The mother asked that Burnside would, if he could consistently do so, place him in a position where his health would be less endangered. She added that both Burnside and myself might possibly remember her, as she had once seen us in Louisville, but mentioned nothing by which we could recall the name. Thinking over the matter and recalling carefully the incidents of our visit to Louisville, it occurred to me that this might be the wife of our generous friend in the little variety store, and the young man in question, the little boy who stood at his mother's knee at the tea-table that evening. Burnside then at once remembered the name, and it proved indeed to be the same. Immediately on his return to headquarters he promoted this young soldier to a lieutenant, and there came to my mind the words of the Teacher:

"Cast thy bread upon the waters, for after many days it shall return to thee!"

From the Christian Union.

THE JOLLY RANGERS.

I suppose you have heard of Robin Hood. He was a jolly sort of man that lived in England, and had a lot of men in his company. They lived in the woods and wore green clothes, and shot with bows and arrows, and if the captain just blew on his bugle they would start up from every bush and hollow, and then disappear again. My father says boys are just the other way; they are as thick as spatter when you don't want them, but when you do, they beat Robin Hood's men for disappearing.

We all had bows and arrows, and we put feathers in our caps and went on raids in the woods. West Rock is a good place for that; there's no end of woods, going on and on up the mountain and around toward Bloomfield. You could get lost in them easy enough, and there are regular caves to live in, only our folks are so scarey we had to come home nights. This last time we didn't, though. We had been planning it a long time, and when we were all ready we had to wait nearly two weeks for it to get moonlight. We wanted to stay all night up in the mountain, and they let us, just for once, if we would never ask again. Boys have to promise a good many things, and people ought not to expect they can remember all of them. I suppose that I have promised to never do about two thousand things; that makes only one thing in a day for about six years; now, how is a fellow going to remember so many things, unless he has a watch? If I had a watch in a hunting case, I could remember better.

Well, we had our provisions, and some blankets and matches, and a hatchet, and we started before sunrise, and went around toward Bloomfield and then up the mountain. All of us boys went except Charlie Purvis, and he had a sore toe, where the cow stepped on it, and couldn't walk. He wanted to go—the worst way—but his father said if he was too lame to work, he was too lame to play. Anybody knows that isn't so. When your tooth aches in school fit to split, it doesn't ache at recess half so bad. I suppose the ache is there all the same, but the fun covers it up, like taking pills in a spoonful of currants. Leaving out the fun is like taking them clear, and you wouldn't like that yourself.

We chose Tom for leader, because he had a Scotch cap, and our boarder lent him a white feather to put in it. All the rest of us had to turn them inside out. We went to a cave about a mile from Bloomfield. The Waterbury road goes nearest to it, and there is a high rock in front of it where you can see up and down the road for a long way. The rock is very steep to climb and has fir trees all around it so you can't see it at all from the road, and it looks as if a person standing on it was in the top of the trees.

Tom said one of us must be sentinel, and stand on guard, and give the signal, if any person came up the mountain. The signal was a kind of whistle, but we don't know how to put it in writing. Chris went on guard first, while we were fixing up the cave and getting wood for a camp-fire. We wanted a fire on top of the rock, but it was too hard work to get up there.

Nobody came along while Chris was on guard, only a dog. Chris chucked a stone at him, and it was fun to see how astonished he looked. It was my watch next, and two women drove by in a chaise. The chaise top was wobbly, and kept going ker chee, ker chee, all the way up the hill. One of the women was Miss Debby Salter. She's a tailor woman, who goes around to people's houses. The other woman was driving, and both of them were talking. When they got to the right place, I said:

"Halt, in the king's name!"

The other woman jumped and looked very much frightened; but Miss Debby Salter said:

"It's some of those sassy boys; I would just like to get hold of them once by the collar."

Then she looked around and called out:

"Oh, you needn't think I can't see ye. I know ye, well."

But she wasn't looking the right way at all; and pretty soon after they drove along. Nobody came along after that, and we concluded not to have a guard until night. We made splendid beds in a cave out of the hemlock branches, and we made a good fire and baked some potatoes, and roasted some corn on the coals, and had a tip-top time along at first.

I think the trouble was Walter Scott. He was a man that wrote books, and Tom had read lots of them that G. F. lent him. They tell about people that lived in the woods, the same as Robin Hood did. Tom told us some of the stories, and we wished we had lived then.

There was a meadow a good ways down the mountain, and there were lots of cows in it.

Wesley said we might make a raid on those cattle, and drive them across the border.

At first we were only funning, but by and by Wesley dared me, and I dared Wesley, and Tom said he would go if we did. Only Chris Fraser didn't think there was any fun in doing mischief. Jerry told him it would only be to scare the cows a little, and they would come back before morning. But Chris wouldn't go; he said he would stay by the fire.

I call that plucky for a little fellow, for I can tell you it's lonesome for a fellow to stay all alone in the woods on the mountain at night.

The rest of us fellows blacked our faces with some coals from the fire, and started down the mountain. We s'posed it was midnight; but it wasn't more than nine o'clock.

We crept along pretty quiet till we got into the meadow, though it was an awful long way down; twice as far as we thought. We made a line and rushed straight at the cattle. Tom told us to shout, "Douglass to the rescue," but we couldn't remember it, and made a sort of a noise.

I tell you those cows were surprised; they ran like everything, but instead of going into the woods they rushed right over a fence into a cornfield. That's the worst about cows, they always do go the other way. We couldn't get them out, and we wished we hadn't done it.

It's queer that things look different after you have done them, especially things that make you sorry. I s'pose that is the reason grown-up folks get along better, because they have found out how it will seem afterward, and so they don't do it. And I can't see why the things that are so nice to read about in books, are so awful mean when live folks do them.

The rest of the story isn't very interesting. While we were talking about the way to get those cows out, a man and a big dog came out of the bushes close by. The man said:

"Boys, you're surrounded, and you may as well give it up, because this dog will pin 'the first fellow that starts, and he ain't in no ways particular where he sets his teeth."

Of course we had to give up, and he took us back to a barn and made us sit down and explain. Tom was the one to speak, and he told him all about the camp and about the stories.

The man laughed some, and kept saying, "um," and "pooh," and then he said that boys in his day had enough to do to keep them out of such mischief, and that he had to use his legs so much day-times when he was a boy, he was mighty glad to keep them still nights. He said he thought a good old-fashioned thrashing would take the nonsense out of us, and then he locked us up, and told Towzer to watch us. Just as he was going away, Jerry Frazer jumped up and said:

"My little brother Chris is up where you see that fire! He's only ten years old, and he told us not to go and do it. He won't know what's become of us, and he might try to find us and get lost. If you'll let me go and stay with him, I'll come back in the morning, honor bright."

The man looked as if he didn't mean to do it, so Jerry said if he didn't believe him he might thrash him now, and make sure of that much, or he'd let any other fellow go, it would be just as well. So the man said:

"Come on."

But he sent his hired man with Jerry; I call it mean not to trust a fellow, but the hired man said it was part of the punishment; when boys get into mischief, they lose their good name.

The farmer asked Chris to stay in the house, but he begged to be locked up with the rest of us.

In the morning something queer happened. G. F. came over very early to get the farmer to go up the mountain with him for a fox hunt. I ought to have said that this farmer's name was Ephraim Holson. He told G. F. to come around to the barn and he would show him some young foxes he had trapped. What G. F. saw was five boys with very black dirty faces sitting on the edge of a hay-mow. He pretended not to see us, and when the farmer said:

"What do you think of that lot for a catch?"

He said that he thought it was a very clever catch.

Tom Kelly said: "Hello, Mr. Ridley;" but he only put up his glass and stared, and asked the farmer where he caught us.

"In my meadow, trying to drive off my cows," said Mr. Holson.

"States prison offence," said G. F., shaking his head. "What are you going to do with them?" "Well," said the farmer, "I did call'ate to give 'em a thrashing all round, but I've 'bout concluded—"

When he said this he stopped and looked at us, and you'd better believe our hearts were kind of bumping, because after what G. F. said about States prison, we thought sure he was going to send us to jail. But he only said:

"I've 'bout concluded to give 'em a good breakfast and send them home to thrash the man that put such nonsense into their heads."

G. F. looked queer, and Tom Kelly was so tickled that he turned a back somersault and kicked up his heels in the air.

"I advise 'em," said the farmer, "to remember that there's plenty of fun in the world that other people can enjoy as well as themselves, and that it pays better to stop and think before you do a thing, than after you've gone and done it. And I advise 'em to say to that man they're going to thrash, that there is only one way to take nonsense out of a boy and keep it out, and that is to put in something better."

I don't know who started it, but we all hurrahed for Mr. Ephriam Holson, and then he took us into the house and showed us a place to wash, and shook hands with us and went away. Mrs. Holson talked to us just the same as if she had invited us to visit her, and we had the best breakfast I ever saw in my life, and honey to eat on our cakes. She gave us some harvest apples, and when Abner came around with the big wagon she shook hands with us all; only when she came to Chris she put her hands on his shoulders a minute, and then kissed him. I think myself, that Chris looks sweet—kind of red and white, like striped candy—and he's one of the boys you can't get mad at, because he won't be mad at you.

Mrs. Holson's lips were kind of trembly, and she said:

"I've got three boys myself, about a big as you. They might have been men and gone away from me, but they only lived to be twelve years old, and then the Lord took them to keep for me, so they will always be my little lads. I feel sure if they had lived they never would have done anything to make me ashamed of them, and I hope your mothers can feel just that way about every one of you. Because there is a great deal to do in the world, and every one is needed to help to do it."

Then Abner said: "Pile in," and we got into the wagon; but I tell you I made up my mind nobody should ever be ashamed of me. And that means to be good clear through, because if other folks didn't know it, you'd have to be ashamed of yourself. Abner drove around through Bloomfield till he came to High Rock, where the camp was, and then he said to us, "Pile out," and drove away. We gave three cheers for Abner, too. There wasn't much fun in camp that day, but we got some sassafras and some winter-green berries for the girls, and went home early.

General Miscellany.

HUNTING THE WALRUS.

Experience of Arctic Researchers After a Walrus Cow.

Hodgson, the pay yeoman, went up the ice pack in a three-holed skin canoe, assisted, by "Liverpool" and "Cockney," and killed ten walruses. He started to tow four of them to the ship, but they proved too heavy, and one after another was dropped until only one remained. In the meantime a thick fog settled upon the water, and fearing the walrus hunters might get lost, Mr. Tracy, the carpenter, was sent out with a crew in the dingey to look for them, while the fog-horn was kept sounding at intervals of five minutes until half past ten o'clock, when they all returned, the walrus in tow making a heavy pull for them. A line was made fast to the animal's head, and it taxed the muscle of everyone on board, officers and men, to hoist it over the bulwark, even with the assistance of ropes and pulleys. It was a medium-sized cow walrus, and weighed about twelve hundred pounds. It was a valuable acquisition as dog food, and "Liverpool" and "Cockney" skinned and cut it up with evident delight, occasionally regaling themselves with choice morsels of what to them was the daintiest of food—the raw and bloody meat. The civilized diet of the forecastle had begun to lose its attraction, and their stomachs craved the gorging of meat which this walrus made possible, and their spirits were cheerful with the prospects. The next day two more walruses were killed and brought aboard, and we had a supply of meat for our fifty dogs to last for some time. Our fine weather was also exhausted by this time, and the third day after the excursionists left, a storm set in from the north, and we had an opportunity of noting its effect upon the ice. The pack which had been to the eastward of Cape Hawaii was seen to be in motion, and though the wind was blowing off shore in a few hours, the open water that had contronted us, was filled with a seething mass of loose ice, huge hammocks rubbing and griading together with an ominous sound. The sea beat heavily on the outside of the sand spit behind which we were securely sheltered, and we had reason for congratulation that so much of our work had been done in the bright days after entering the harbor.—*Wrangle Land Letter in New York Herald.*

From the Argosy.

THE WIND ON THE HILL.

O sweet is the Summer air
Which steals down the Chestnut Walk,
When the children are playing there,
While lovers wander and talk,
But the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist across the down,
And the bright light over the sea,
And ships coming home to the town!

O merry the sunny strand,
Where waves wash at one's feet,
And the wives and children stand
And wait for the fishing fleet,
But the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist across the down,
And the strong light over the sea,
And ships coming home to the town!

O stately the castle tower
'Mid its cedars dark and still,
Where ghosts come back at midnight hour,
And the mid-day sun fails chill.
But the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist across the down,
And the wild light over the sea,
And ships coming home to the town!

And solemn the grey church spire
(I can see it, looking down!)
With its weather vane tipped with fire,
As the sun sets over the town.
But the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist across the down,
And the golden light on the sea,
And ships going out from the town.

There's a grave by the old church door,
(That changed all the world one day,)
Can it be the mist from the moor
Creeps up as I look that way?
But the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist across the down!
Though the light is sad on the sea,
And the ships go out from the town!

I should like to die on the hill,
Some day as the sun goes down,
And the wind blowing strong and chill
Drives out the ships from the town!
Yes! the wind on the hill for me,
And the mist may lie below;
There's a glad light over the sea,
And a secret for me to know!

CRAZY FITS OF ELEPHANTS.

A Showman's Recollections of Keepers Killed, and Destruction Done by Them.

"Of all mad elephants, Hannibal, I think, was the worst," said Dr. I. A. Graves, the veteran showman at Bunnell's. "Most elephants recover from a mad fit within a few days, but Hannibal—well, he would keep up a tantrum for weeks and months at a time. The longest spell he ever had began early one morning in June, 1854, while traveling with Raymond & Waring's menagerie from Pawtucket to Fall River. He broke away from his keeper and ran the highway thirteen miles, smashing everything he could. Talk about elephants being large! Hannibal looked as big as a locomotive that morning. The keeper attempted to check him, and was chased into a swamp. The first vehicle the mad elephant met, was a butcher's cart loaded with mutton. He smashed the cart, killed the horse, broke the driver's arm, and scattered the quarters of mutton along the highways. Two vegetable wagons were upset, and the horses were killed, the drivers escaping unhurt. When the fury of his fit was spent, Hannibal was found beneath a tree by the roadside completely exhausted, and for the time submissive. Tusk chains were applied, and for many weeks afterward he was kept under the strictest surveillance. To approach him during this period was dangerous. On turning out one morning in Burlington, Vt., I found a number of women and children petting him, while he was swinging his ears in evident enjoyment. Then I knew the spell was broken. He was very docile and tractable the balance of that season.

"Hannibal was the most vicious elephant that ever tramped with a show. In 1849, while we were at Cornellsville, Ohio, a stranger gave him a pail of water. He drank the water leisurely, and then, suddenly turning his head, struck the man with his tusks. The poor fellow died. While chained at Williamsburg, N. Y., in 1857, he took a fit and pursued the keeper into a stoneyard, when he got wedged in among the bowlders, and was subdued in that dilemma. Up to 1845 Hannibal was noted for his unchangeable good nature. In those days old 'Put' Townsend used to be his keeper. 'Put' had trained him to drive the stake to which it was cumtomary to chain him. One day 'Put' started the stake and handed the sledge to Hannibal to complete the job. Hannibal made a ponderous blow at the stake head, but struck his foot instead. He threw the sledge so far that it required an hour's search to find it, and he never would touch one again. Hannibal lived to be one hundred years old, and killed twelve men.

"Columbus was another bad elephant. In December, 1849, while with Raymonds & Waring's menagerie, Chestnut street, Philadelphia, he killed his keeper, took possession of the show, and retained it for three days, killing in that time, two camels, a lama, and upsetting a large stove and two animal cages. The doors were barricaded, cannon were mounted in the street, and soldiers paraded the premises in readiness to give him a warm reception should he appear. Finally two keepers entered the building from above, straddled the crossbeams, and dropped a noosed rope to the floor. He walked into the trap, and when he realized that he was caught, submitted quietly to the chaining operation. Columbus fell through a bridge at North Adams, Mass., the following summer, and died a few days later.

"Bill Williams, or 'Canada Bill,' as he was professionally called, was Columbus's first keeper. Forepaugh's elephant, Romeo, killed him in winter quarters at Frankfort, Pa., in 1865. Bill went into the elephants' den to do some chores, and his crushed and mangled body was found a few hours afterward. George Waste was killed in much the same manner by Turner's African Romeo. Before a rescuing party could get his body away from the elephant, it was denuded of everything except one boot. The elephant Pizarro had mad spells ottener than those I have mentioned. In 1850 he killed his keeper and two camels, near New Orleans, and then raided the country for miles around, doing a great deal of damage to farm property. Chief, who is the only one of the mad, or 'rogue' elephants alive, killed John King, the keeper with Robinson's show, in 1879."

"What causes the madness of elephants?" was asked.

"If you have ever noticed, you may have seen that there are issues from the head of the elephant, just behind the ear. When these are kept open, a thin, watery substance exudes therefrom. I have always remarked that elephants are kindly disposed and easily handled while these issues are open, but just as soon as they become clogged, madness ensues. The insertion of a common tape-needle brings relief."

"Is it true that elephants are fond of stimulants and narcotics?"

"Yes, exceedingly so. Now, there's a popular error that should be corrected. It has always been thought that if you gave an elephant tobacco, he would never forget it, and years afterward would kill you, did an opportunity present itself. That is not so. On the contrary, there are but two things which they relish more—apple boughs and thistles. Their passion for fine cut tobacco is something marvellous. Some years ago, when I was traveling with the elephant Conqueror, it was my custom to carry a meerschaum pipe in a particular pocket in my coat. One day I left my coat within reach of his trunk, and in less time than it takes me to tell it, he had found the pipe, crushed it and swallowed it, case, stem and all. During the few years I was with Conqueror, I reckon he must have eaten several hundred pounds of tobacco. The truth of the matter is, gentlemen, an elephant, like an intelligent person, will eat only what suits his taste, and never harbors any dislike for those people who give him disagreeable food."—*N. Y. Sun.*

THE EXPERIENCES OF A SAINT.

A certain pious shopkeeper felt an ardent longing to be enrolled in this venerable company, and to that end he went to a man who was universally esteemed as holy, to beg him to procure him an interview with the Kuth. After all sorts of tests this was promised to him, and he was commanded to go to a certain gate and to address himself to the first person he might see coming out of the neighboring mosque of El Mo'ayyad. The merchant obeyed, and he was, in fact, met by the Kuth in the form of a dignified old man, who granted his prayer and ordered him to take the district southwest of the Zuweyleh Gate under his protection, with the street called Darb el Ahmar. Immediately the merchant felt that he had become a Walee, and perceived that he had insight into things hidden from other mortals. When he reached the district intrusted to him, he saw a man selling cooked beans out of a large pot to the passers-by. The newly-made saint took a stone, struck the pot over with it, and submitted without a murmur to a severe thrashing for the deed. When the bean-seller's rage was somewhat moderated, and he set to work to gather up the shards of his broken pot, he found a poisonous snake among the pieces; then he perceived with repentance that he had beaten a Walee, who had interfered to prevent his selling food that would have poisoned his customers. The next day the poor saint limped around his district with swollen limbs, and, without thinking of the blows he had received a few hours before, he flung over a large jar of milk which was offered for sale at a stall. Again he was severely beaten by the owner, but the passers-by held the milk-seller back, remembering what had happened the day before. When they searched among the fragments of the milk jar they found a dead dog at the bottom.

On the third day the Walee dragged himself again to the Darb el Ahmar, but painfully, for he was sorely beaten. Here he met a servant carrying a tray on his head, with delicacies and fruit intended for a feast in a country-house. The saint immediately put his stick between the man's feet, so that he fell down and all the contents of the saucers were spilt in the street. The servant flew on him in a fury, and gave him as severe a taste of the stick as he himself expected to get from his master for his clumsiness. Meanwhile the dogs fell upon the cates that lay in the roadway, and within a few minutes of the first mouthfuls they lay dead. This proved to the bystanders that the food that had been spilt was poisoned, and they earnestly implored the saint's forgiveness. The pious man rubbed his severely beaten shoulders, said to himself that it was not worth while to see things that were hidden from other mortals, and prayed to God and the Kuth to remove from him the burden of sanctity and to restore him to his former ignorance and humble condition. Heaven granted his prayer, and as a shopkeeper he escaped the beatings he had received as a Walee.—"*Egypt; Desc